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agreement. A physician, you have to have the physician signed on. And if under that practice agreement, you know, no physician's going to sign one that says, if I give you advice and if I say do what you want but here's my advice, that's one thing. But if it's a, look, that can be meningitis, you need to do this. Even if this law doesn't say you're under the direction, no nurse out there is going to be able to practice, continue having that agreement with that physician and ignore a directive along those lines. In addition, you open yourself up for liability under both the nursing board and the joint board that's overseeing these. So there's a check in here and a balance to the, the freedom that these nurse practitioners have. So...

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you. I would see that that check and that balance, from what you said, may be that you would not continue to have that practice agreement with a physician. But I see the possible repercussions more with the patient and, you know, I don't care about the practice agreement between the nurse practitioner and the physician. The outcome would be what happens to the patient.

SENATOR WESELY: But in the end the nurse practitioner is not going to want to have patients that are not having their treatment and are not going to get well, I mean. So you would always have that.

SENATOR BOHLKE: And I certainly understand that. And this was just an example, I mean, there may be others. But what I'm trying to point to is that ultimately that when you use the word "advice" rather than "direction," the ultimate decision-making power in that lies with the nurse practitioner rather than with the doctor. Thank you. And with that, I think Senator Janssen wanted to have the remainder of my time and I'll yield my time to him.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Janssen, you have a minute and a half.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Senator Bohlke, for allowing me a minute and a half. That should be enough. There's an area that concerns me quite a bit, and that is pharmaceuticals. The nurse practitioners now will be able to prescribe pharmaceuticals with, I would imagine, on their own or with advice from a local doctor. A year ago, it