

issue, but I want to put my thoughts on the record. I will be voting against the amendment to the amendment. I'll be voting against the language on advice. I'll be endorsing the language on direction. But the point that I want to make with my time is that this is one of the places where the law is a brutal instrument to use for what should be a relationship. In fact, the word advice and direction, that whole controversy is meant to be a qualifier for the word that appears throughout this section, which is consultation. And the heart of a consultation is a relationship. Unfortunately, these two factions have forced us to write out the terms of a relationship. Thank heavens we don't do that with marriage, we don't do that with being a parent, that law isn't an instrument to write out the terms of how people are supposed to relate to each other except in areas like this. And that's the failing. Because they're running to us to find the right language for people that under the bill are supposed to be working together. Enough said. Period. End of story. Let me tell you why I come down on the side of direction though, and then also let me make a recommendation as to what I think could be done to improve this whole area because I think there are things that can be done off this floor without looking at law books and language to make this better. I think direction is better because if we're going to get into this fight between advice and direction, the malpractice standard for doctors is higher than the malpractice standards for nurse practitioners. And by using direction, you will trip the doctor's malpractice standards, which means that patients will have more opportunity for recovery at a higher standard of care than if you use advice. Patients are better off if there's a doctor to be held responsible because their standards are higher than anybody else. So one of the reasons doctors are so beleaguered and is one of the reasons doctors don't want to listen to anybody else, because they have a higher standard than anybody else. The second reason that I think you want to use direction is because doctors have more training in diagnosis than anybody else. Nine out of ten times, great to have somebody who doesn't have all that training who can make a simple diagnosis, but doctors are the most trained people in diagnosis. And what the nurse practitioner will be doing in part is diagnosing. I want a doctor standing behind that relationship so that this most critical of all functions is done, at least in consultation, with the most knowledgeable person in the field. Having said that, let me tell you where I think the doctors are at fault here. The doctors, it seems to