

mid-level practitioner to, to expand their scope of practice. The physicians are the only medical entity in our state without a scope of practice. They are basically entitled to, once they get their degree, to go forth and provide medical care as necessary to treat their patients. Everybody else has got a defined scope of practice. They can do only so much and no more as defined by law. And that's the point at which Senator Landis was talking about, how awful it is for us to intervene with this relationship question. But that's exactly what we constantly have to do in defining scope of practice in the relationship with, with physicians whether you're talking about optometrists or whether you're talking about nurses or whether you're talking about anybody else out there that practices some form of medicine. And time after time, as we've gotten into this issue, what we've discovered is that the threats of disaster, the potential of malpractice, the disastrous scenarios that are laid out for us and then we all get scared and concerned, and we back off, we think that we need to continue to have the physicians overseeing or controlling or involved to as great a degree as possible to preserve the quality question. And what you come down to is time after time, as we've been faced with decisions that allow optometrists to do more, nurse anesthetists we've recently done that for, a podiatrist, et cetera, et cetera. You know what, we haven't had disasters. We've ended up with individuals who have training and skills and go forth and carry out their scope of practice as defined by law, as defined by this Legislature representing the people of the state, and they have not had the malpractice suits that were threatened. They have not had the disasters with medical care that were, were suggested. In the end we basically have gone through this battle, whether it be this group or that group, and gone through the battle and made a decision, held our breath hoping that nothing terrible would happen. And guess what, nothing terrible has happened. That's exactly what will happen in this case. You're all worried and concerned about nurses being able to handle diagnosis, being able to make decisions. And in the end I know how the votes are going to come out on this. The nurses are not going to win; the doctors are going to win.

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: They have a legitimate concern, I grant you that, but I'll tell you, in the end, should you side with the amendment offered by Senator Withem and myself and should we