

pass that legislation, I'll predict, just as we have in the past with similar issues, you won't be having people coming back talking about the disasters that you, you are being fearful at this point. Because these nurses, the hundred or so that are out here now and the additional ones that will come in, are well trained, are competent, they're going to take care of their patients, they're going to be concerned about their patients, they're going to work with doctors who are appropriate and you're not going to have the dangers that you're fearing right now result. That's the lesson from the past, that's my suggestion as what will happen in the future, but again, I encourage you to consider the amendment Senator Withem and I are offering, but I understand your fears and I'm just saying that I don't think those fears will ever come to fruition and the reality will not result as being laid out for you by physicians who oppose the amendment.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I'm going to come, I'm going to come out and support this amendment and I guess I'm the most rural area person here. I have seven counties that don't have a doctor or a nurse in my district and I can imagine a nurse practitioner getting in one of them counties and they might be in collaboration with a doctor in another county and a lot of times they cannot get the direction of but could get the advice on the telephone. I'd like to ask Senator Wesely a question on that angle of it. Is that the way that you could see that working in my district, that they could be a nurse practitioner in one county and they could get advice from a doctor in another county that couldn't even maybe make it there, how could they get the direction of if they wasn't there with the nurse? I guess that's my question.

SENATOR WILL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Senator Jones, that has been one of the problems. And 65 percent of the current nurse practitioners are in rural Nebraska. These are people that want to practice and have and will practice in rural Nebraska. And the greater flexibility we give them, the greater opportunity to serve in more distant and remote areas. The tighter you make the reigns with the physician, the more difficult it is to serve areas like you're talking about, you're right. But, of course, you still