

SENATOR VRTISKA: Why then is it more important with the training that they have that nurses be allowed to be in a position to use the word advice of rather than, or advice on rather than direction of? Because, just a moment now, I'll finish what I have to say. The point I'm getting at is all through this whole bill as I've read it we talk about collaboration, communication, these other sorts of cooperative arrangements are discussed and then we get to the end and we...and I thought it was a good bill and still do except I have, I just need to clarify the difference between advice on and direction of. And I guess what I'm just telling you is because PAs, who have been in the business for a long time, it's my understanding, do work under the direction of a physician, I'm trying to determine why is it more advantageous to not have the same arrangements with the, with the nurse practitioners?

SENATOR WESELY: I think the answer would be that physician assistants are, as their title indicates, they're assistants to physicians, they're a physician extender, so they're whole role, as evolved over time, has been there to serve at the pleasure of the physician. And, yes, they've had a little more flexibility over time granted to them, but in the end, there's always going to be that, that tie. Nurses have their own scope of practice, they have a bit more independence, they don't necessarily have to answer to physicians as a physician assistant does. And the nurse practitioner has an even additional set of training that allows them that additional skill and background to be able to make those judgements. So the feeling is that for those, I mean where out of sixteen thousand plus nurses and we're talking about a hundred now that are of this higher level, and there will be more, obviously, over time that have the capability of having a little more independence and judgement than they now, now have, less than they'd like, but the amendment that we're offering still has them as part of the team, seeking advice, collaborating, simply not being controlled. Control is the issue, Senator Vrtiska, it's really a physician controls a physician assistant, basically, they work for the physician. Here nurses would like a little less of that control, they'd like a little more ability to use their own judgement in deciding how to treat their patients, obviously, in communication and in talking with the physician, that's the difference.