

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, the only, I guess the only thing that's bothering me all through this process is because ultimately when a doctor gives advice, he's obviously accepting some of the responsibility for that patient. And if his advice is wrong and, or if the nurse practitioner performs in an improper manner, then obviously he has some liability involved in that. That seemed to be one of the points that the doctors that I talked to who had originally opposed this legislation, who are now supporting it...

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...had a real, that seemed to be their real problem is how you were going to establish the liability when they would be giving advice but not being able to determine whether that advice is being carried out. And that was seemed to be the kind of the stickler and guess I just need to get some clarification for my own, to make up my own mind on how I want to vote on this particular amendment.

SENATOR WESELY: If I could respond to that, Senator Vrtiska, I know time is running out, but the question of responsibility and liability we did look at and the nurses were willing to accept full responsibility, not have a doctor continue with responsibility. And they have accepted an amendment in the committee amendments to have to have liability insurance. So they're willing to take on added responsibility and liability for themselves for making their own decisions.

SENATOR VRTISKA: But doesn't the deep pocket, in fact, determine who has to ultimately pay the bill?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, I think they're ready to sever that responsibility, but the doctors...

SENATOR VRTISKA: But is that there? Is that included in this?

SENATOR WESELY: The original committee amendments that was the severing occurred, it's a little less clear...

SENATOR WILL: Time.

SENATOR WESELY: ...than the amendment we're offering.