

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. President and members of the body, I think Senator Landis probably summed this up better than anyone so far. We probably shouldn't be taking care of this. It should be taken care of by the doctors and the practitioners. I stand to oppose the Withem and the Wesely amendment. The number one priority in this whole thing is the care of the patient. Senator Wesely sat on his chair and he says your going to... on this desk, you're going to give a lot more flexibility to the nurses. That's fine. But the nurses do not have the background. My wife is a nurse. My daughter is a nurse. They are not nurse practitioners. But they just do not have the background, they don't have the clinical skills, there are some things they can do. In the copy here it says an advanced registered nurse practitioner may provide health care services within specialty areas. What are those specialty areas? Ten years ago I had a disease that was called Wagner's (phonetic) Disease. I was sick for four months. I'm sure by that time the nurse practitioner would have got me to a specialist. My own GP didn't know what it was. And if I wouldn't have got to the doctor... finally they sent me to Omaha and if it had been two days later I wouldn't have had any kidneys. I think about that. Coming home from the Army I had an emergency appendectomy. Got into San Francisco, they carried me off in a wire, one of those wire deals. And I got to thinking about that. You always think about your own self when you talk about these issues. Well, if I'd of been out in White Clay, Nebraska or some other place, I don't know if a nurse practitioner could have taken care of me or not. I question it, I really do. But the number one priority in this whole thing is care, folks, and you want the number one, you want that number one person there as much as possible. You are giving too much flexibility to the nurse practitioners. And I oppose the Withem and the Wesely amendment.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Wesely, I don't know where he is right now. The first two years I was in the Legislature I was on the Health Committee and I will never forget all of the professional differences, shall I