

Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Will. I always enjoy listening to Senator Wesely because on bills that he has he can, he can actually come out say, this is a compromise, we're giving up this, and when you find that all the smoke clears, you find out that he really didn't give up anything, he gained a heck of a lot, but he makes it look like they gave up a lot so that it works for the compromise. When you look for the...without this amendment, and I do not oppose...and I do oppose the amendment to the amendment. Without the amendment, though, if you go with the word "direction", you have to ask what have the nurse practitioners gained? They've gained a definitive answer on what education requirements should be. There's not going to be any more discussion about who should have what or who's responsible for what type of education. They now are going to have a state, an oversight board and a, a way to bypass for decisions if they can't get any type of written agreement or any type of agreement with a doctor. They have...they're going to get that. They're going to have that bypass. They're going to have a state oversight board, which I'll be talking about a little bit later, but they're going to have this board. And that won't be, that won't be an issue for discussion any more. The only point that they're not going to get, I hope, would be this amendment where they have, they will still be under the direction of. And I'm not going to repeat all the arguments I stated yesterday of why I so oppose the amendment, but I will say one final point to Senator Jones. And, yes, he has probably the most rural district, but there's no difference between a rural area in his district than any other person's district. And I represent a lot of rural area as well, and my rural people are just as important as his, and I can tell him that for the best medical care in the rural areas you do not, Senator Jones, in the best interest of your constituents, want to support this amendment. Particularly out in the rural areas in your part of the state where they don't have as many primary care physicians, that nurse practitioner that'll be out there will be asked to do more because of their availability out there and they...it's very important to the people out there that when they go to that person that they know that if something is wrong they'll have that higher standard of recovery which the doctor on the direction would give them. So I agree with you, we need to have the access and that's why nurse practitioners are so important. But we also want to