

protect them if something goes wrong to have, have that higher standard. And so that's why I will be opposing this particular amendment.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. We really have come a long way on this bill. When I was on Health and Human Services the last year I thought there was no way we would get as far as we are today. I also want to remind you that the physicians assistant took about eight to ten years for their bill to get through. And I think that if we now are down to just one word here, I would really rather see us carry the word "direction" for a couple years. Let us see how this works out. Let the nurses prove themselves out there and in two years they could come back in and with, I'm sure, the historical data that would say we have proven ourselves, we can act as independent agents and we are doing a good job, we are providing health care in areas that it wasn't before, and then we could certainly take a look at the language again and put "advice on". But at this present time, I would like to see us stay with the language that is within the amendment, but not the amendment to the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President. And I, very quickly, I don't want to drag this out because I don't want to get hung up on numbers or anything. But if Senator Wesely is still nearby, I'm still a little unclear relative to the fact sheet that you handed out and might be able to help me. I think you indicated yesterday that there are approximately a hundred nurse practitioners in the state. And the numbers that you provided here are addressing, in either years, less than twenty. So I guess the first question is, are there only twenty of the hundred nurse practitioners that are currently practicing? And this is then a reflection of those that are, that are practicing as nurse practitioners? Is that how that correlates or...?

SENATOR WESELY: Are you looking to the access?

SENATOR WILL: Senator Wesely.