

make rules and regulations, it'll go through the Attorney General's office, then it will filter down and doctors and nurse practitioners in the state will have to interpret it to work out these relationships. The specific words we're debating here on the floor of the Legislature may, may not be that important because these are, in fact, human relationships and they'll be worked out. And issues like this ought not to come to the Legislature, they ought not to have to be enacted in the law. I agree with that and I agree with Senator Landis up to that point. But the fact is that this one needs to be because the relationships that the previous structures have defined just have not worked. These individuals who are nurse practitioners practicing in other states, and those of you that are concerned about the horror stories that are going to happen, don't you think this Legislature would be flooded with all the letters and phone calls you've gotten from doctors if there were horror stories out there? Don't you think this Legislature would be flooded with stacks of those horror stories? They don't exist. We're talking about a professionally trained individual practicing within that individual's scope of practice. They do this in most other states, as Senator Wesely has pointed out to us. They come to Nebraska and because of the regulatory climate, political climate, cultural climate in this state this relationship has not been working. The nurse practitioners came to the Legislature, Don, two, three years ago saying thank you for the bill you passed back in the early nine...or in the early 1980s, but it's not working. And each year we have gone back to the communities and said, this is your problem, you need to work it out. The doctors have promised they'll do that as long as there's a bill hanging over their head. As soon as the threat of that bill's gone, it hasn't worked out. I know it's easy to say, please let...please, groups, don't make us decide inside the Legislature, this is your fight. But in cases where they cannot reach these resolutions, it is our obligation to decide. What the full amendment, the full Withem amendment seeks to do, I think, is place into statute a relationship that will work. What this amendment does, substituting the words "direction of" for "advice on" simply is a signal, I think, to those two communities that we expect the nurse practitioners to be respected professionals capable of practicing within their training, within their scope of practice. To me that's what the signal of this message is all about. With that, Senator Wesely, any remainder of time, you may have it.