

March 6, 1996

LB 1155

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...defibrillators.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: You've got to set them, you've got to set the charge, you've got to do it all manually. There are very few of those services, what, I think a half a dozen or so, not very many of those services anymore. Everybody is AD. The Intermediate Services, those are a higher level of service. They're not the paramedic. They're less than that, but still a high level of service. They can offer IVs, et cetera. The servicing, the licensing for those expressly requires you to have those qualified people on board, and you can't do anything unless you have them on board, (inaudible).

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: You may have EMTs who are perfectly qualified to render very good emergency medical services to the level of their certification, but you're just up the creek.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And I guess my question is, and maybe it's just because we haven't done a good job of it, but why have they stated that EMTs, even though they may be qualified or perfectly capable of doing it, why have they been denied the actual being able to do it?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Okay, that depends on the level of their training and their certification. For example, EMTs now cannot use IVs,...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Correct.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...they can't use airways. With some grace, perhaps, eventually we'll get the regulations out and they'll be trained and they'll be able to do that, if they're properly certified in that, intermediates can. You should be able to offer services that are appropriate to the circumstances, up to your level of training.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay. And is there anything though