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concern with the potential for doctor shopping, for duplicate treatments, for excessive or unnecessary use of telehealth services. So to address these concerns, we added the subsection that I just read, with the establishment of methods and procedures that may be necessary to safeguard against unnecessary utilization of telehealth conferences and consultations. And the purpose of this amendment is to allow Health and Human Services to set up rules and regulations to prevent those abuses from occurring. For example, one way in which Health and Human Services could accomplish this would be to require...would be by requiring a local physician to authorize access to a specialist in a certain situation. And rather than trying to address every possible scenario in statute, this issue is better left with the medical community to set up standards and criteria for the various circumstances that may be applicable. Furthermore, it's much easier and more efficient to modify the department's rules and regulations as they're required to adapt the needs of telehealth programs; therefore, this amendment, I believe, works to clarify to give Health and Human Services the authority they need to deal with the issues as the need arises. And with that, I believe that the Department of Health and Human Services is now comfortable with the amendment. We've delayed it to allow them to have some implementation earlier in this bill, and I would urge the adoption of this amendment, and again recognize the work of Senator Jensen and the Health Committee, and Senator Jensen who made this a priority bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator Jensen, you're recognized to speak to the Kristensen amendment.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I was fortunate that on Monday and Tuesday of this week I was in Salt Lake City at American Telemedicine Association. This is a conference and show that they are now holding annually. And I will say this, that the telemedicine technology is almost something out of space wars...or not space wars, space technology. Matter of fact, Star Wars, thank you...because they have the ability now to at any distance to make investigation by ultrasound, by scopes and probes, that we never were able to do only in a metropolitan area. And so it is, I think, of great interest for the state of Nebraska, a rural community, to be