

this is a compromise amendment that allows for a greater grace period of time in order to receive the instruction, in order to be certified as an orderly or as a nursing aide. I hope the body would see fit to adopt this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins, do you wish recognition on this amendment? Your light is on.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Wiitala offered this amendment because he felt that we would be giving the nursing homes who have large numbers of employees eight months from today to start training those people, giving them forty hours, whatever, of training, and I think that is fair. I would have liked to have seen it take effect sooner, but as Senator Wiitala explained some of these nursing homes have large numbers of nurse's aides and to get them all trained within ninety days might be quite difficult. So, Senator Wiitala is offering this amendment that will give the present employees of nursing homes eight months from today, in other words give them until January 1 of next year to give them the training. After January 1 any new employees that they hire, and Senator Sieck, I think he has been very generous here, your motion was just defeated for ninety days and I think Senator Wiitala's motion now or amendment gives them one hundred twenty days. So Senator Sieck is going to get what he wanted and the nursing homes that now employ nurse's aides who are not trained will have eight months to train their present employees, and after that, they will have four months. So even though we saw Senator Sieck's amendment defeated, Senator Wiitala is now offering four months again which it was Senator Wiitala's amendment. I cannot stop that. I would urge the body to vote for Senator Wiitala's amendment since it again is being more than fair to the nursing homes, and if you want to talk about cost, remember, the Methodist Nursing Home said after they gave training they reduced their cost or their turnover by 27%, and, Senators, if you think the nursing homes can't afford it, please look at that handout that I gave you on Beverly Enterprises and just look at the profit margin they have had going back from 1973 all the way up to 1981 and you can see that it is pretty good. And if you read the whole thing on Beverly Enterprises which is a chain nursing home operation. They are out trying to buy more nursing homes. I can't imagine anyone wanting to buy something that is unprofitable. They are not asking to buy service stations or auto dealerships, just more nursing homes. And you will note, too, that 62% of their income comes from medicaid which they keep telling us costs them money, they don't make any money, yet here is the largest nursing home chain in the United States saying, we want to buy more nursing homes even though 62% of our income is through medicaid. So that is pure hogwash when they