

January 9, 1984

LB 416

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members, I see where Mr. John Foley of the Sixth Medical Retardation Region opposed this and I guess I would ask Senator Fenger or perhaps some of the committee members what the objection was. Senator Fenger, can you tell me?

SENATOR FENGER: As I recall, Senator Kahle, the objector concerns were worked out partially with the committee amendment and partially with an amendment that will be offered on this bill on Select File.

SENATOR KAHLE: One other question. Is there ever a doctor involved in prescribing these medications?

SENATOR FENGER: Yes, Senator Kahle, as a matter of fact the resident physician would have to determine that the "necessary supervision" exists in that facility before any staff member can administer this medication. So the physicians in the facility, it is my understanding, are the governing factors.

SENATOR KAHLE: Okay, I have often wondered how this really worked because I have been in a number of care facilities especially, and maybe not mentally retarded facilities, but where the person is on duty, I doubt if it is a registered nurse, comes around with a tray full of pills and what you are doing with this bill then is trying to shore that up so that there is some accountability by that person?

SENATOR FENGER: Yes, there has recently been developed in most of these facilities a CSM which is a Care Staff Member below the licensed capability of an RN or an LPN and what we are doing here is an attempt to give them authority to, after a completion of a training program, give them the authority under the doctor's permission to administer, as the bill said, "routine, oral medication."

SENATOR KAHLE: Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: I think Senator Fenger answered my question and I wanted to know if it was oral medications only, and he did, he answered that. Thank you.