

March 7, 1984

LB 761

statistics show that a family, a mother...an expectant mother may in fact end up with a caesarean section so that nurse midwife is skilled in spotting possible problems. Then the physician is the one who manages the birth when there are complications. A nurse midwife is trained in spotting problems so that the physician will be there. The nurse midwife successfully manages the normal delivery process. I urge your advancement of LB 761. This is a procedure which has the safeguards built into it which will add to the choices of medical services. It is not a piece of legislation which will automatically have large numbers available in our state and in practice it probably means they will be more likely to be in the metropolitan areas but it is another service which is available to the families in our state for choices of health delivery.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Beutler. (Gavel.) Please let's hold it down. We are noisy this morning for some reason. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would like to ask a few questions of Senator Marsh if I may, just so that the legislative record is clear as to our intent with certain sections of this bill. And I would like to first, Senator Marsh, refer to page 4, Section 14, where it indicates that the certificate to practice certified nurse midwifery shall authorize the holder under certain provisions of a practice agreement to do certain things and it says "attend cases of normal childbirth" and I have questions about two of those words. The first one is the word "attend". Now I understand that to mean that with regard to a normal childbirth a midwife could be at the place of birth by herself and handle the entire birth even without the doctor being in the immediate vicinity, is that correct?

SENATOR MARSH: Yes, sir, that is correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR MARSH: And it was agreed on by the physicians as well as the nurse, Board of Nursing.