

Senator Wesely provided us his handouts, he noted that the committee amendment for this bill had stripped away the registration requirements, had stripped out the credentialing requirements, and it simply provided my poor dental assistants with a statutory home, i.e., they would be defined as people who worked in dental offices. I thought to myself it is a crime to go up the mountain and get to the top and see so little below but that is all right. I have visited with the dental assistants. They have told me that it is better to have a home in statute than no home at all. So with that, I will support LB 267 as seriously amended and gutted by the committee.

SPEAKER NICHOL: And may all your teeth fall out at once. The question is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: LB 267 advanced. LB 277.

CLERK: Mr. President, 277 was introduced by Senators DeCamp and Chronister. (Read title.) It was read in January of last year. It was referred to Health and Human Services. It was advanced to General File. There are Health and Human Services Committee amendments pending.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Speaker Nichol, members of the Legislature, LB 277 deals with respiratory therapists. It is a bill that would provide for a number of recognition...yes, LB 277 provides for licensure of respiratory therapists. The bill as introduced to us last year would have also provided for that. They went through the LB 407 process and went through the technical committee which agreed, the director which agreed, and the committee which has agreed that they ought to be licensed. If you will look at the other bills that have come through, licensure is the highest standard by which we recognize health professionals. So it is no small achievement that they have gotten the support they have to be licensed. There are some concerns, I guess Senator Withem has an amendment to the bill that will be considered but, by and large, we have worked with the 407 people and with the