

of independent practice of nurse practitioners were first brought to the attention of the Department of Health and a request for a review under the 407 review process. There, as you who are familiar with the 407 review realize that there are three different reviews done by a technical committee, the health board, and by the director of health. The proposal that was initially submitted by nurse practitioners was to have essentially an independent practice where they were able to carry out their scope of practice without direct supervision or I believe even indirect supervision by live physicians. That proposal for independent practice was not endorsed by the technical committee nor was it endorsed by the Board of Health, but it was supported by the Director of Health, Dr. Horton, who then testified, as did others, at a hearing that we held in 1994 in the first look at the bill before the Health and Human Services Committee. That bill was held in committee and not advanced. We held the bill and suggested further negotiation occur. The bill that was introduced was not the same proposal that was submitted to the 407 review. It did call for agreements to continue to be signed between nurse practitioners and physicians and was not an independent practice completely. The '94 bill was not advanced as I mentioned. Further discussions occurred between nurses and physicians over 1994 and this bill, LB 414, was then introduced by Senator Day, Senator Withem, and Senator Will last year in 1995. The issue before you is the committee amendments and in the discussions and negotiation we had last year between the physicians and the various physician groups and the nurses, we did strike upon not complete agreement obviously, but we did agree in terms of technical drafting of the bill that the amendments before you would improve the bill in that form. And it's very important that we adopt the committee amendments, and I will go through them in a second, because it does clean up some drafting problems with the bill. It also dealt with some of the concerns being expressed by physicians and in fact we did have cooperation of the medical community in the drafting of these committee amendments. And again I emphasize it did not remove their opposition to the bill but does have their support in terms of the committee amendments themselves. Anyway, let me run through the committee amendments and tell you what they do and then I'll bring you up to where we are today. One of the things that the committee amendments do is in the cooperative agreement that we have we better define what is included in the cooperative agreement but we also go from two physicians down to