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LB 498

SENATOR JANSSEN: I think that this is probably one of the better bills that's came along in this Legislature, and I'm quite excited about it, having went through something like this about a year ago. I may have needed one of them, too. I didn't but it could have been. But listening to Senator Baker talk about the instructions you're going to have to go through, and so on and so forth, it seems like you're not going to...you'll have to take about as much training or maybe more than you do now. Is that...am I getting that right?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, Senator Baker is right about the current training requirements for EMTs that are AD certified. Whether or not the Department of Health will impose the same standards or whether they will review the standards that they are now imposing on ADs, I really don't want to speculate about that. They are given authority to promulgate rules and regulations. I hope that they will do that in the spirit of trying to make these devices widely available. That was part of the thrust, quite frankly, of LB 138. We changed a number of requirements, remember, that addressed...

SENATOR JANSSEN: Yes.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...emergency medical care providers in general. So I hope that we continue moving in that direction and that is the direction that we can do what we can to sensibly provide the highest level of care at any location or in any setting. I hope that they are able to produce regulations that meet those general objectives. I don't want to try to put the regulations in the statute and say 10 hours of instruction is enough; CPR is enough. Senator Baker mentions the replacement of the paddles. I don't want to put that in the statute either, but I think that we can certainly...this discussion, I think, is good, Senator Janssen, because it allows us to express our wishes to Health and Human Services to make a thorough review and to make, with a proper regard for safety and effectiveness of the devices, to make sure that they carry out our intention that they should be widely available and widely available for use.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. I also was with a group of volunteers last Wednesday evening and they were