

March 26, 1979

LB 382

yet under close examination when they checked those cases out, most of the people had died.

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: I think under careful examination you will see that it isn't cracked up all that it is meant to be. The other major part of the bill is that the bill, even if you support Laetrile, is one of the poorest pieces of drafted legislation I have seen in some time. Let me explain briefly why. Section 6, I don't think that you can tell a hospital that they can or cannot use Laetrile. I am convinced that you cannot. Section 7 which really gets to the guts of the purpose states that no physician may be subject to disciplinary action for prescribing or administering Laetrile. Does that mean that malpractice shall be excluded from this act or shall not be excluded from the act? You don't know. The whole issue is really whether or not you are going to give a license for a physician to use Laetrile and is there going to be malpractice. The bill does not address that. There are so many holes in this particular piece of legislation that even if this body supported Laetrile, it should receive a second public hearing and should have to be rewritten. There are many, many loopholes in this bill. Personally, aside from the fact that the bill is poorly drafted, I oppose Laetrile for the reasons I have stated and I urge you not to support this motion.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise in opposition to the Kahle motion to bring LB 382 out of committee. I do so for a number of reasons. First off, it gets back to what Senator Cullan was talking about and that is our respect for the committee system. The reason that this bill has not come out of committee can be laid I think directly on my shoulders I guess. I will take responsibility for it. There were three votes to advance the bill. I have been wavering for the last month on trying to decide what I consider to be a very important issue, philosophically and fundamentally, and I have come to a decision that I can now support LB 382 and have asked for an executive session today to pass the bill out of committee. However, Senator Venditte felt he had the votes on the floor and would like to raise the bill out of committee and bypass what I think is a very important structure and process which we ought to respect in this body. I also think that we ought to keep it in