

does not remove or alter the authority of the Board of Nursing with respect to setting the standard for nursing education in Nebraska or establishing the requirements for entry into the nursing profession. Today at least 3,500 nurses in Nebraska are on permits, they are not licensed. This fact is directly attributable to the administrative operation of the Board of Nursing. The fact is the Board of Nursing, had the Board of Nursing done its job those 3,500 nurses would be . . . would have valid licenses today. You examine the opposition of the Board of Nursing to LB 847, you can clearly understand why their performance with respect to the administration of the nurses practices act has been so poor. Consider for example statements of nursing board member Ruth White of Scottsbluff, in the letter to the editor concerning this bill, and I quote, "Cullan was involved in the passage of LB 422 in 1975." Mr. President, members of the Legislature, in 1975 I was at sea probably off the coast of Chile or somewhere when this bill was passed and I assure you that I had nothing to do with enacting the nurses practices act in 1975. In fact at that point and time I hadn't even been in the Legislative Chamber. Again, Mr. President, a member of the Board of Nursing states in her attempt to convince nurses to oppose this bill, quote, "In 1977 as Chairman of the Public Health and Welfare Committee, Cullan held a hearing on October 27, 1977." Mrs. White, that is nice but in the fall of 1977 I was a timid freshman legislator and was assigned to the Constitutional Revision, Recreation Committee and the Judiciary Committee. Mr. President, those are just two small examples of the way the Board of Nursing has tried to kill this bill from its inception, with obviously erroneous and incorrect information. I hope that you will vote upon the facts that we have given you, that you will consider the issues and not the incorrect information that unfortunately has been given to you in an attempt to kill this bill. At this point in time I would ask Senator Kelly to just take a minute or two and tell you exactly what is in his bill, LB 847.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, LB 847 is entered into the Legislature by the administrative rules and regulations committee and it basically does three things. It allows the State Board of Nursing to say exactly like it is right now. There is no change of any kind in the State Board of Nursing. The executive director's position would be appointed by the Department of Health the same is true of all health provider boards. At this present time the Executive Director is elected by the State Board of Nursing. The third thing that would happen is in licensure revocation where the nursing board would make the charges against a nurse to revoke her license and the Department of Health would