

the last couple of days arguing about the advent of continuing education when it comes to real estate brokers or sales people and some of you that were here heard my little talk about what we do have in the way of continuing education for some fields, some professions and some that are noticeably lacking. But it seems to me that if I am going to be arguing against continuing education in some areas and my arguments are that as Senator Higgins so eloquently put them, that sometimes continuing education is not for the betterment of the profession and sometimes it is not for the protection of the public as Senator Warner suggested that that is the purpose of it but rather sometimes it can be used as an excuse to get together and sometimes it can be used as a restriction within the industry whether it be for entry or for continuation, that we ought to look, if we are going to talk about continuing education being truly for the protection of the public, that being the constant upgrading of the profession for the protection of the public, then one of the sure ways that we do have of knowing that continuing education is going on and that the participants in this program are actually learning the changing state of the art that they need to have, one of the ways we do that is to test them and find out. We do this in the schools all over the country every day. We don't just say, go to school and learn something and tell me that you have been there. We say, pass the test. When you enter the profession, whether it be insurance, real estate, embalmers, what ever it might be, you take a test showing that you have a proficiency as part of your licensure. If we are going to call continuing education as important as pre-education to come into the industry, then I think it is very reasonable that you ask for a test to show that you have indeed learned what your profession says you need to know to continually serve the public in a rightful fashion. So if we are going to push for continuing education requirements in all these trades, professions and organizations, and if we are going to constantly try to upgrade these requirements and we are going to do so in the name of protecting the public, then I think that it behooves us to ask them that they show you that they have learned what the profession says they have to know so that we are indeed protecting the public. I believe the amendment is a reasonable amendment and I would urge its adoption.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, did you wish to speak?
Senator Higgins.