

contiguous states especially and all the states in the country, but I do want to make it just a matter of record that I am not in support of continuing education by some of these licensees under the way that they have been used in the past, at least to my experience, and I have had experience with the realtors because I am a licensed broker and I have been involved in some of those fields. Senator Higgins has also been involved in real estate and insurance and she has some concerns that I basically share. I did not vote for her amendment, but I do basically share some of her concerns and the goal. I think it's important that she understand that the goal of this trend that we're doing right now, and that is adding continuing education requirements to all of these licensees, all the licensees that are coming in from sunset for renewal we're adding continuing education requirements. The goals are to upgrade the standards of the profession. The goals further are and probably most importantly and probably are a direct result of the first, the second goal, the most important is to protect the public, to protect the public welfare. Now those are very noble goals and that's why it is very hard to argue against continuing education in some of these areas. The argument can come in as to how those continuing education hours are being implemented. Now let me give you something to think about so that you have this to think about with other bills that come up with continuing education and, in fact, this bill by itself. You have an organization and I don't mean to be picking on the realtors, it's only because I am involved and I do understand it. You have an organization that says, you're going to have to have continuing education to be a licensed realtor or, excuse me, a licensed real estate broker or salesman. A realtor, by the way, is a member of an organization. You must be a member of the association to call yourself a realtor. You can't be a realtor unless you belong to the association. You can be a licensed real estate broker or a salesperson, but in order to be called a realtor you belong to the association. Now you also don't have to be a member of this association to have a license and to take these continuing education requirements. However, the commission and the organizations involved can charge fees to the people for taking these courses, they don't have to, they may. And there is nothing in the statute that says you can charge the same fee for a member of your association versus a person who is not a member of your association. So what could happen? And I'm not saying the realtors do this at all, in