

together, the committee of professionals that would be listening to a specific concern regarding licensure requests or expanding the scope of practice and then providing to us what we would suggest to you is a professional recommendation and we would go from there and proceed with the legislative process. I would like to tell my, and she is my friend, Senator Higgins, sitting here beside me and she is not going to tug on my skirt, that I was listening when she was speaking and when she was talking about the fact that this is going to do everything to put down women in Nebraska, I would disagree with her on this. All of these groups that we've been listening to that have been requesting licensure have women on...as professionals within the group that are already practicing, that have provided recommendations that, yes, 407 is a good way to go. In addition to that we've had women groups specifically concerned women for America, people that represented themselves that were women, the Nebraska Nurses Association, the Board of Nursing and so on and Nebraska Dietetic Association and those people are primarily women. So, Marge, women are on the side of this issue also. I guess that...one of the things that I've always said is that my main concern is in health care cost containment and I think that what we should be doing here is looking very seriously at requests for licensure because I have a deep concern that the more licenses that we...the process for providing licenses that we impose is going to in the end increase health care costs and that that is something that we should be looking at very, very closely. So I would then just close with saying that I do support 407 and I ask for your support also. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins, do you wish to speak a second time at this time? Next we have for recognition, Senator Chronister, if he wants it and Senator Hannibal, Lynch, Chambers and Hall.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I have listened to Senator Lynch, Senator Withem and my friend here who will tug on my skirt if I get too carried away and as I see it, listening to the debate for this bill, what the senators who serve on Public Health and Welfare are saying is, take the pressure off of us. I spent three years on Public Health and Welfare and I'm going to tell you, it is tough when you've got the dentists pulling on you from one side and the women who want to be dental assistants or dental hygienists