

carrying their water for because I would like to be their friend and, in fact, I think I am their friend in many cases but we have fought in many of their cases. I think you all know that I have been one of the strongest advocates of health care cost containment. I don't think there is any doubt about my sincerity in trying to address a different health care issue, so this is not any bill that I would support just because somebody wants it out in the lobby. I have wanted this sort of change for a long time and I think many of us in the body that have worked on the licensure issues have wanted this change for a long time. It is time we took that action. Now what we really see as the concern is unlike what Senator Chambers says of people trying to stop others from getting into a profession or having a chance to practice a profession. We see, in fact, many people coming to be licensed so they can protect themselves from others practicing their profession. There are really two issues here, those that want new licensure and those that want to expand their scope of practice. On the first point, those that want new licensure, many cases they are legitimate. In some cases they are not. In those cases that are not, they are really seeking to protect themselves from others doing the same thing they would like to be doing and are doing now so they apply for licensure, then only they can meet those licensure requirements and they are stopped from the oppor...they stop others from the opportunity of doing what they are now doing. And the example of this...if Senator Chambers would listen for a second, is the social worker bill. We had a social worker bill that was opposed strongly by Hispanics and blacks who said that this would stop them from the opportunity to practice social work. This is their allegation. Senator Morehead would refute that. But I am trying to give you an example of where in other licensure issues this example has come up as well where people feel that a licensure would stop them from doing what they are doing now and protect the group that would then be able to be licensed. So that is not...that is the opposite again of what Senator Chambers told you was the situation. The other situation though is true. When you have an expanded scope of practice request, there is an attempt by a group that now is licensed to expand what they can do and if they can expand what they can do, chances are they would start to get into areas in which other professionals are already operating. So, naturally, those professionals oppose the expanded scope of practice. It is a turf battle. We all know it. Both sides can be