

blamed on the situation. One side doesn't want to give. The other side wants to take and between the two you really have trouble deciding who is right and who isn't. Well, really that decision ought not to be based on economics, who is going to benefit and who isn't. It shouldn't be based on political strength, who is strong and who isn't. It should be based on who is right and who is not right in terms of the need to protect the public through this expanded scope, or to the licensure issue. The issue really should be the public interest, the public good, who is served by this proposal. And right now that is really one of the last things that are considered. In fact, we spend all our time talking about who wants this and who doesn't want this and who lobbies for who and who doesn't lobby for who and the situation has deteriorated to a point where I don't think we are doing the best job possible, and many people would agree with that. Now I know the bill is supported by the doctors, the hospitals and nursing homes and all those people that some of you don't care very much about and aren't very positive about. I have my differences with them as well. But just because this bill is supported by them doesn't mean it is a good idea. I think it is a good idea. I think it is something that needs to be done. And all those groups that have come before us, the 11 different bills that we have in committee, we haven't killed a one of them and we won't kill a one of them. We want to allow them the chance to work through this process. We are trying to be fair with them. We just adopted committee amendments to make sure they had a fair shot at coming back next session. We are trying not to take one side or the other. I am not trying to take one side or the other. I am trying to say, let's do this in a way that makes more sense than what we do now. Now in the end we haven't really done a good job of determining what level of licensure is most appropriate. Now I have talked about licensure, there are other things you can do as well. You can certify people. You can register people in addition to license people. And certification and registration are simpler processes, less cumbersome processes and less costly processes that can help achieve the ends that these groups want and that is another option that is so difficult for us work through. What are the ranges within the proposal that is before us? Now we have 11 bills before us, but let me tell you that right now in this state we license about 20 different professionals in health care, about 20 or so. There are clearly identified 145 professionals in the health care field. We license 20.