

Senator Withem. Now there are other speakers that I have identified that are on the bill and I will go through those but if you don't mind, we will go to Senator Wesely first, on the amendment.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, I understand Senator Higgins' concerns and I am really sorry that she feels so strongly against the bill. I can try and assure her all I can and it won't do much good so all I will say is that the bill is in the form that I think is going to be best for the State of Nebraska. The amendment is not serious. It attempts to take the bill and apply it to all different professions across the spectrum. The difference between us and the banking industry and insurance industry and what have you is that in health care you have so many different professionals. It is a field that is somehow subdivided into identifiable occupations so that you have a licensure problem far greater than any other sector of the economy. As I said, and I passed out to you, there are 145 clearly identified health professions, another 250 that are merging or indirect health professions for a total problem of into the several hundred figure. You don't have that in insurance. You don't have that in banking. You don't have that in any other field. Health care is special in that regard and as a result we have a special need and that is why I would ask you to reject the amendment. Even though I know Senator Higgins can't be all that serious about it, I would appreciate very much your opposition.

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion on the Higgins amendment? Senator Higgins. Okay, Senator Chambers. Very well.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, when a certain mind set occurs in the Legislature, some amendments that are as rational and valid as the bill we are discussing are presented, they are kind of laughed off as being insignificant. But if we are establishing a policy of legislation here this morning, and we would be through the adoption of LB 407, we should not cut it off at the Health and Welfare Committee. The people on that committee may be somewhat offended that their bill is being scrutinized. There are a lot of issues that have come before that Judiciary Committee which I did not understand when I first became a member but I studied those issues and I have learned a lot as a result of doing that.