

vote aye, opposed vote nay. We are voting now to advance LB 336. May we have your attention and cooperation for recording your vote. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance LB 336.

PRESIDENT: The motion prevails, the bill is advanced. On behalf of Senator Arlene Nelson the Chair has the privilege of introducing her guests this morning who are in the east balcony visiting our Legislature. They are Bill and Dee Morrow from Doniphan, Nebraska, and Trent and Dawn Nowka from Trumbull. We thank you for coming down and welcome you to the Legislature. Proceed now to LB 132.

CLERK: Mr. President, 132, offered by Senators Conway, Schmit, Lowell Johnson, Chronister and Vickers. (Read title.) The bill was first read on January 14, referred to Public Health and Welfare, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Chairman Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members, this piece of legislation is an important bill, necessary to pass this session because of an Attorney General's opinion that changed what had been the long interpretation of the Physician Assistant Act. Physician assistants had been allowed to practice independently from their physician sponsors and by communications through telephone and sight visits were able to function well, particularly in the rural areas of the state. The Attorney General did have an opinion which changed that situation somewhat. So it was felt important to come back and reestablish, essentially, the scope of practice that had been provided in the past. The bill was brought to us with a number of different things to get back to that point, and also to do other things to the physician assistant licensure provisions. The committee amendments change the bill slightly, but I think they make the bill much more palatable to the different parties involved. This was negotiated between the different interest groups that were concerned about the legislation. The first thing is that the telecommunications which would be allowed would have to be sufficient to provide quality medical care. This would provide that, yes, indeed,