

you once again, Senators, look at the proponents, the hospitals, and the nursing homes, and they mention a nursing association, but that association, in the list they sent me, is made up of hospital room...or operating room nurses, gynecological nurses, nurses who have made it to the top of their field and who are now willing to say, now that I've made it don't let anybody else get in. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senators.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely on the Higgins amendment.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members, I'd oppose the Higgins amendment. I haven't seen the language before. We've been trying to figure out what it does. It really doesn't make much sense at this point. Her concern that she has talked about is this will stop, if we pass this bill, individual senators from introducing legislation calling for licensure. We've talked about it before. That is not the case. If you want to introduce any bills, that you want to, you are free to do that. This is a recommendation process, an analysis process. You can come in with legislation at any point and exempt yourself from that process, or overturn the statute at any level that you wish. So it doesn't stop you from performing your duties as a state senator, or representing your constituency. There is no need for an amendment along the lines she is talking about. The amendment she is proposing really doesn't make any sense. She amends the section dealing with applicant groups. That is for those who are applying for licensure. We just can't make any sense of it, so I'd ask your opposition to the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, I, likewise, agree with Senator Wesely that this amendment...not that I object to what Senator Higgins is attempting to do, but by putting this particular language in this particular spot I'm afraid it just kind of muddies up the bill. There never was an intent to say to you, as state senators, that you cannot introduce a bill on any matter during any session as long as it is consistent with the rules to perform any changes in the health care statutes that you choose to introduce. We don't need to specifically exempt us out of this particular process. All this bill does, one more time, is create a process whereby we have a