

Thank you for visiting the Legislature this morning. Senator Wesely, please. (Gavel.) Please, let's hold it down, please. Senator Wesely. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: I'll be very brief. We've talked a lot about this. I sent around a memo, though, ... an article that I would like to show you. It's from State Government News. It just came out this week. If you didn't have a chance to look at it, it's on your desk. It shows that the concept we are talking about here isn't out of step, we are just maybe a step ahead of a lot of other states. As you can see there are number of states, Virginia, Michigan, Washington, and a few others that have looked at this concept. Some have enacted some legislation, it is caused "sunrise" legislation versus sunset legislation because they see the same things we see, that is that this health licensure issue is going to be bigger and bigger as time goes on. It needs a logical, systematic approach to dealing with the issues. They are, all across the country, looking at the concept that we are about, hopefully, to enact today in this Legislature. I think it is a wise step to take. It is one that will show that we can be leaders on an issue instead of following all the time. If you'll look at the handout you'll see why it is such a big issue across the country. Senator Higgins has constantly spoken against the measure. I guess I understand where she is coming from. But I think most of you understand that there is another perspective. That perspective is that the way we've handled these issues in the past hasn't worked, and we are going to have a bigger problem in the future if we don't come up with a better way to deal with the issue. I, again, ask you this, if the present system isn't working, and I don't think it is, have we seen a better idea come from those that oppose it? Have they given a constructive alternative to what we are talking about, before us in LB 407? No, they haven't. They've just attacked, attacked, attacked, not in a constructive fashion whatsoever. If you pass the bill and we try it this year, you will have a chance to see whether it works or not. In my estimation it will work very well. But if it doesn't work you've lost nothing. The bills are not going to go anywhere this session anyway. They'd have to be carried over. The whole process can be worked through this year, and then you can look at it next year. If you say, gee, that didn't work, let's get rid of it, you have every right to do that. But to at this point say no, before you even see how it will function, is a mistake. I say you have