

nobody is prevented from carrying out those functions. What is protected is the term, you know, "social worker", and you certify to let people know who is in fact a master degree and a bachelor degree social worker.

SENATOR SMITH: Then there wouldn't be any requirements placed upon these groups or agencies or whatever you want to call them that they would have to have this kind of certified or licensed social worker?

SENATOR WESELY: Absolutely, no mandate whatsoever in this bill.

SENATOR SMITH: All right. Thank you. I wanted that to be very clear to everyone in here.

SENATOR WESELY: You bet.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, am a little concerned and I would like Senator Wesely to answer the question that I have in regard to volunteers. Senator Wesely, is it correct to say that requirement of this bill that those engaged as professionals in the practice of social services must either be certified or registered, that applies only to those who hold themselves out as professionals? I am very concerned about the organizations that I am involved with that do have counseling services, say, emergency pregnancy service, and others that volunteer to do that type of work but they do not hold themselves out as professionals?

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Labeledz, they would not be affected by this bill whatsoever. They would not be affected. They would not have to be certified. Nothing would change for them. As long as they don't hold out to be a professional social worker, you know, they are fine. Using the term social worker, volunteers aren't affected. Nobody, even if they are hired and paid for their work, they are free to do it again as long as they don't utilize the term social worker. Otherwise, they are free to carry on as they have in the past.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you. So then I understand it that the requirement to be registered or certified would not