

stimulation is all about. And, yes, you had better know what you are doing when you start using it. It is not a matter of just giving somebody a little shock and seeing what happens. So I guess that I think it is appropriate that we restrict the use of these people to those institutions or those areas that Senator Lynch is referring to. It seems to me that in order to protect the health of the public, and I think that was the purpose of Senator Goll and Senator Wesely with this bill, in order to protect that a little bit more, then we had ought to restrict them to the original areas that I think the green copy of the bill referred to. And I do support the Senator Lynch amendment and I support the bill itself. I think Senator Haberman is totally wrong in his interpretation of the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Goll, please.

SENATOR GOLL: Mr. Speaker and members, I wish to rise in opposition to the amendment proposed by my good friend, the Honorable Senator Lynch, but let me begin by stating that last year we passed LB 407 to provide for screening of health care licensing issues by the Department of Health prior to this type of debate on the floor. LB 355 has gone through that process and its present form is the result of that process. At no time were the restrictions proposed by physical therapists considered to be wise policy. LB 407 passed to avoid just this kind of heavily lobbied bickering. I ask each of you to respect the LB 407 process which we put into place last year. Now let me talk a little bit, let me talk a little bit about the merits of this amendment. It proposes to restrict, to restrict athletic trainers to educational institutions. Now this is neither wise nor practical. No other health care profession in Nebraska is restricted as to location. Eighteen other states, let me remind you, 18 other states have licensing laws covering athletic trainers. None have any restrictions as to location. Currently, there are individuals trained as athletic trainers and who would become licensed under LB 355 who are working in sports medicine clinics in Nebraska. This amendment would force those persons to either not seek licensure under the act or quit their jobs. If in the future, a private health club or tennis or racquet club would want to hire an athletic trainer so as to better serve its customers, this amendment would prevent them from doing so. This amendment hurts the public keeping people from seeking the services of an athletic trainer if they want to