

to its merits if the committee so deems. So I would be willing to support the Will amendment as kind of a Band-aid approach to dealing with the IME at this time and then possibly dealing with the entire scope of the IME issue at a later time. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator Withem, on the Will amendment.

SENATOR WITHEM: Call the question.

SENATOR CROSBY: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall the debate cease? All in favor vote aye, opposed no. We are voting to cease debate. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 4 nays to cease debate, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Debate ceases. Senator Will, would you like to close on your amendment?

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Crosby, members of the body, yes, I would. I would urge your support for this amendment. Again, this is the amendment that would subject the panel of independent medical examiners that are appointed by the Workers' Compensation Court to be...to the approval of an independent panel that is appointed by the Governor, consisting of three members each from the medical profession, labor organizations and management business organizations. I think that this provides a check against any whim that the Workers' Compensation Court may have, any bias that they may have. I would...I would submit that although the process could well be politicized, it's politicized already with the court appointing these people. I think that the Governor, as he or she does in appointing any one of a number of panels that are in his power to do right now is...has that power with the full knowledge of the voters when the election comes around and that's a...this is a fair duty to give the Governor. I think, beyond that, we worked our way through a number of amendments last week and I think there were some people that were...that were under the impression or of the opinion that some of the amendments we were doing were not as...were micromanaging in the area of the bill and there were some rather harsh words expressed at some points. I would submit to you I disagree with that characterization, first of all. But, secondly, I think now we're getting into the areas and amendments of this that these are very substantive