

want to rise and say that I urge you to support this piece of legislation. It's an excellent piece of work that's been done through a cooperative effort by many people over the last two or three years. It represents an effort to pull together on behalf of good policy, setting people's turfs aside in the process. I commend Senator Bernard-Stevens for bringing it this year. It's a major step forward in establishing scope of practice as well as protecting the consumer in terms of who can claim to be a mental health practitioner, and I urge you to support it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Senator Robinson, on the committee amendments. Senator Beutler, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I'm sorry, Mr. President, I don't have any remarks.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you. Any other discussion on the committee amendments? Seeing none, Senator Wesely, do you wish to close?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, again, Mr. Speaker, members, with the adoption of the Bernard-Stevens amendment to the committee amendments and with the amendments that we offer to the bill, I think we deal in large part with some of the concerns that we heard at the hearing, and I think in a large way to address other concerns that may be there with the bill. A lot of work has gone into the legislation. I would ask for adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. You've heard the closing on the committee amendments. We will now vote on the committee amendments to LB 669. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Bernard-Stevens, would you like to open on the bill?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. First of all, I want to thank the Chairman of the Health Committee, Senator Wesely, because I know he has been working a great number of years in this area, the members of the Health