

it, no regulation at all. This would begin...this would start the process and I think conclude the process that would keep that from happening, and that, in itself, is a very, very important step. I'd also like to again thank the certified social workers, the psychologists, the...if I start naming, I shouldn't do that because I am going to leave someone out, certainly the marriage and family therapists, the psychologists, all of the people who have been working very, very hard on this to try to come together, find out what they can agree with, how they can work it together, how could they get counseled, how do they share information, and I wish that other professions of the medical community would take and learn from how these people have gotten together to find a better way to serve people that's cost effective, that can be administered, and is not a burden on those that are trying to practice in the area of mental health, and I would appreciate the support and passage of LB 669.

SPEAKER BAACK: Discussion, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, let me frame the issue a little bit and simplify it as much as I can, although it is not a simple issue. The question of licensure or regulation of social workers was an issue around for a long time. It started in the 1970s, counselors likewise, and we finally saw through the 407 process we set up in 1985, I think it was '86, probably, we adopted legislation that said we will establish professional counselors, certified social workers, and master certified social workers or something, another title like that, and we said these titles, in order to use those titles, you must meet a certain level of education and meet these standards, and then you shall be granted these titles, except anybody else out there that wanted to be working in those fields under those scopes of practices was basically allowed to do that. In terms of health care licensure, that would be kind of a mid-level of licensure. The lowest level of licensure in health care is called registration. That's everybody just registers that's doing a certain thing but there's really very minimal requirements to get registered, where just kind of you check in, and that's it, and from there on you are basically free to do what you want, but we at least monitor who is out there doing it. The second level is this level that we had with social workers and counselors in terms of certification, and that certifies, you have to meet standards and nobody else can use that title, but essentially if you don't use the title, you are free to act beyond that. Then you have the licensure level