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Bill No. 156 – *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Consequential Amendments Act*

Mr. Forbes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And of course this is a follow-up, almost like a part two of that bill I was just talking about, 155, the health care directives and substitute health care Act, so very much along the same line. It's about translation, and it's really very straightforward. As I said that it's really important.

This one amends the four Acts: *The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Act*, *The Electronic Information and Documents Act*, *The Health Information Protection Act*, *The Public Guardian and Trustee Act*. And because this other one is being repealed and replaced, these need to have the appropriate references in there.

And of course these are not insignificant pieces of legislation. And we know that there's been a lot of work done around this in terms of making sure that adult guardianship and co-decision-making can be as effective as possible. It was at one time, you know, the idea that when you gave up your right to make your own decisions, it was all or nothing. Now there's a bit of a continuum, so there is more co-decision-making. And that's what we want to see, recognize that when people do have the capacity to make some decisions — and that's an important thing — that's a part of recognizing people for the people they are.

And I'm not just saying, you know, it's either all or nothing. You're going to be completely under guardianship or you're not going to have any responsibilities. I think this goes a long way in recognizing the fact that we want to enable and empower people to be in charge of their own lives as much as possible, recognizing of course that we don't want to get anybody into a dangerous situation or a reckless situation where they have the power to make some decisions that clearly would put them at risk or their ability to manage into the future, whether that's with making sure that they're looking after their money as well as they can and that type of thing. But clearly I think that this is something that we always are needing to be as vigilant on as possible.

But these Acts don't get into the heart of these substances, into the substance of these four pieces of legislation even though they are a part of the same suite. It's just about being translated. But I think it's important again that when we are in committee, we will be asking to make sure that nothing is lost in translation, that in fact they have a strong method of ensuring that the quality and the intention of the first, the original piece of legislation, is coming through in the Acts that are being translated.

We would hate to see and it would be a really unfortunate circumstance, particularly in this area where we're talking about people who are taking on responsibility for others, that something has gone awry and it could have been prevented if we had chosen our words more carefully. And we don't want to see ourselves coming back with better language in a year or two because we could have foreseen this.

So we really are talking about making sure nothing is lost in translation. But it's important to do translation because I think it's important to make sure people can read in the language that they are most familiar with, that means something to them, and that for them, because they are not reading in their first language, that again, you know, that problem of something being lost in translation. So this is good to see.

Obviously we will have some questions about this in committee. But it's not . . . I think it's relatively straightforward and I think that I would at this time like to move adjournment for the Bill No. 156, *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*.