

treat these types of things that this bill tries to do. And I would join Senator Moore and Senator Wesely in asking you to reject this amendment to the committee amendments, adopt the committee amendments and then advance the bill to Select File. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I will also stand in opposition to the amendment. And, too, some of the adjectives that Senator Kristensen added, bright and hard working, I also would like to add, well educated and extremely capable. The profession, as far as I'm concerned, has all the...has all the credits and credibility that I think they need to do this sort of work. There's no problem...I have no problem at all with the type of education they receive. There's been some discussion other places about use of oral medications and their lack of education as far as the optometrists' lack of education as far as what these medications would do in other parts of the body besides the eye. I have to remind you that these people have gone through the same basic science courses that medical doctors do and that veterinarians do and anybody in the health field does, and they take national boards to pass those exams. I've got here a list of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry and the questions that they ask and let me just point out a few of the areas here in general. Pathology, for instance, they talk about inflammation and repair of vascular and cellular changes and acute inflammation; histological changes, resolution of acute and chronic inflammation. They go down and talk about immunopathology, genetic, and principles and disorders. And they talk about X-linked inheritance, autosomal recessives and autosomal dominant inheritance. They talk about neoplasia, talking in terms of cancer, as the layman says, the integument, the infectious diseases and neoplastic diseases. They talk about and they are quizzed on and tested on the respiratory system, on the heart disease and cardiovascular system. They're tested on endocrine diseases. They go through as extensive a testing procedure as you could want, and the state licenses these people. We give them our trust. We ask them to do the things that we think they should do and they are very well trained and capable of doing it. They don't want, as a profession, to do something that will harm their patients. They are trying very hard to remain a...stay within their scope of practice and I think that this will give them...this piece of