

legislation without Senator Kristensen's amendment will give them the opportunity to treat these people the way that they feel that they can and should be able to do it. They have gone through a very difficult process. The 407 process, at best, is difficult because you have to meet the scrutiny of a whole group of...a whole spectrum of health care people. They've gone through that process and they've come through, I think, with flying colors. Sure, there's one objection, that was from a medical doctor who has to, I think, be somewhat supportive of the ophthalmologists. So I would urge that you dis...you don't allow this amendment and that we do provide the optometrists with the ability to do the things that they have asked us to let them do. I have no problem with that. I think they are very professional and I think they will continue to be that way and I think we should support them. Thank you.

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

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I have a number of questions. Senator Wesely, I have a question for you, if you would respond.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely, would you respond, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Sure.

SENATOR ROBINSON: You talked about two areas, and I don't think you used the word...term "drugs", two areas that the bill would include, types of drugs, I think. Could you explain that in a more full manner for me?

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah. The committee amendments essentially allow oral medications to address three areas. One would be generally for pain, another would be for infection of the eye and the other one would be inflammation of the eye. The Kristensen amendment would take the last two out and leave for the pain.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Normally, do...let's say that the bill would pass without the Kristensen amendment, would you see optometrists visiting with the medical doctors in the community on this type of thing?

SENATOR WESELY: That's a...that's a very good point. I understand in a couple of states where they've allowed this they