

that I think is a little bit compelling is the fact that in Nebraska dentists who have less training in this area of pharmaceuticals than optometrists are allowed to prescribe oral antibiotics, and I think even podiatrists are allowed to do the same thing. So it's...we don't have this issue coming to us from the dental community, we don't have it coming from the podiatrists, there seems, obviously, to be a turf war. I am not comfortable with...and the committee was not comfortable with allowing optometrists to look at glaucoma and to treat glaucoma which I think is a much more serious area and would need much more serious consideration. And I think Senator Wesely was right in talking about the 407 committee. Those are the people who really know what's going on in these areas and their recommendation was to allow this. So I think those are compelling reasons to allow optometrists a slight expansion of their scope of practice and to allow, particularly in rural areas, some access medical care that's not there. But, again, I would say that we are not the right people to be making these decisions and we ought to be looking, I think, more to the 407 committee and to people who are knowledgeable about these issues to help us make these decisions and I think we ought to follow their recommendations as they come to us. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL PRESIDING

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Horgan. Senator Moore, you're next, followed by Senators Crosby, Bohlke, Pedersen and Jones.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. President and members, Senator Withem made me pause for a moment and think about my stance on this issue when he referred to Bob Clark and maybe I'm the new Bob Clark. Now that...that was a thought that made me think about it. But, having thought about that, I also listened to what Senator Withem said and what Senator Kristensen said, and as you continue to listen to the arguments, you have to...I think it's worthwhile to go back to 1979 and go back a few years and you go back to '79 when we got into the topical situations, the record will show there was the same discussion on the floor as there is right now. The concerns were raised by the opponents to the advancement at that time of all the things that were going to happen. And I submit to you in the last 14, 15 years none of those stories came true, none of them did. I mean, it's just...no matter what you do on this issue, no matter what you do on turf battles, you're going to hear the same arguments there, and I understand that. Senator Kristensen talked about,