

you know, just because you don't have a...you don't let GPs do hard surgery in Minden, Nebraska, I mean, that's not what we're talking about here. You know, if we were talking about letting optometrists do laser surgery, the analogy might be correct. We're simply talking about a slight change, a slight expansion of the scope on oral medications. They already are allowed to do topical medications in the same area, you're going to allow them to do oral medications. So many of those...many arguments that the opponents have used today are better arguments for the glaucoma bill that we've talked about in the past which is not a part of this measure. And, once again, I have to reiterate again when the two bills are merged together and married, one, as one, there was never...little, if any, concerns raised about this portion of the bill. Realizing that, you know, let's find out simply what we can agree on and, obviously, then when we've gotten to that point this was the end of the world too. I mean, there's been several things that were either mentioned by the opponents...I mean, there's so many red herrings going around here, I understand that, their concerns, and all of us, we're certainly not always qualified to talk about them, but, you know, is this making Nebraska one of the two most liberal laws in optometry in the United States? Absolutely not, not in any way, shape or form. There's, you know, more than a dozen states that do something similar to that. I have not...you know, have we seen terrible horror stories in those 12 states? No, we have not. Senator Kristensen referred to one study in North Carolina, I believe, and I think if we want to do the same study, do...do doctors of optometry, ophthalmologists, politicians, people make mistakes? Yes, you do, and we can ferret out those on all sides of it. And I think if you look at the bill and talk about what's really in the bill as opposed to what the bill could possibly, maybe some day might lead to, you will come to the realization that, I mean, this...you know, there's not enough fight...there's not enough in this bill to fight about but the fact is that any sort of advancement in the scope of practice, the opponents of this bill are going to oppose it vigorously. I think we found a bill that would appease all their concerns they've raised in the past, they're raising more now. I simply ask the body to defeat the Kristensen amendment, adopt the committee amendments and advance the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, we all