

how many minutes do I have left?

SPEAKER BAACK: You have two minutes left.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you very much, Senator Crosby. And one of the reasons I hesitate to stand up here and start reading horror stories is that that starts to interject emotion into all those discussions and we sometimes get away from what's policy. But, for example, and this is a study done by the American Academy of Ophthalmologists, that's true, and they talk about, for example, here's an adult female who was treated by an optometrist daily for a week with drops or conjunctivitis in the right eye. The optometrist told the patient she had a cataract. The pain and redness became severe. She was forced to be referred to an ophthalmologist and then they found a hypermature swollen lens, edema, she had pressures. What happened was she then lost her eye as a result of it. Now that's with using drops which are a lot less dangerous than the drugs. So we're having the trouble with the drops, imagine what you're going to have with the oral meds. We've got a 70-year-old man here...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...that had a cataract in his right eye, from a clinic a hundred miles away from his home. He was good after surgery but returned home to the optometrist for postoperative care. All seemed well but it became reddened and some blurred vision. He was treated again with drops which we allow now but which are just directly into the eye and that was the exact wrong thing to do. And, in fact, it turned up that there was some other bacterial in there, he then had to go to interavenous antibiotics from an ophthalmologist and, quite frankly, because of the delay in the treatment, he lost his eye to do that. But...and so those are two stories. I've got a whole pack of those but the trouble with that is, I guess I want to come to it, is you shouldn't have the problems and allow this and to start the process and to have the problems and then say, gee, we shouldn't do it. You ought to make the policy choice ahead of time,...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...that's what I'm attempting to do.