

amendment treads on going a little further than we probably should go but I'm at least comfortable doing that much. And it is tough to stand up, and, I mean, I'm going to go back and talk to my friends who are optometrists and some of them aren't going to understand, some of them will. And although I think everybody's desire here is to give good and adequate medical eye care, but, quite frankly, there's a reason you go to medical school, there's a reason you go through the internship, there's a reason you go through residency, and that's because you see those a lot and you gain a specialty and that specialty is there for a reason because eye disease is serious and the reason it's serious is if your topical drops and your things can't treat the eye, that means there is something serious and if there is something serious, you should see a medical physician. Senator Bohlke, if there is any of your time left, would you be offended if I gave it to Senator Bernard-Stevens who has been patiently waiting? Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Bernard-Stevens, there's about two minutes left.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Believe it or not, that should be sufficient. Okay, maybe not be sufficient but, nonetheless, it will be close. I have not spoken on the issue, in fact, all of last year when it was before us I did not speak on the issue though I tried diligently with Senator Landis and others to try to come up with a compromise between the two sides. I rise in support of the Kristensen amendment. And I wanted to make just a couple of comments about some of the things that were said in the past. One of the things I find interesting lack...interestingly that's lacking in the debate today is good medicine. The patient that's out there for eye care, what is good medicine? What's best for the patient? And to be honest with you, I don't care what's best for the optometrist financially or scope of practice, I don't care what's financially beneficial for the ophthalmologist or scope of practice, I care about what is good medicine. And there's a reason that we have criteria for medical professionals, particularly MDs. There's a reason...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...that we have universities. There's a reason that we have higher degrees. There's a reason that we have people put more time and effort in study than others, and