

the reason in this case is medicine. And Senator Withem said it very well when he talks about there are so many things that deal with side effects on bodies, on other areas in regards to medicine that we want to trust people that have the medical background. I would also like to comment to something Senator Horgan said about rural areas and let's do not get into this area that rural areas are not covered. In fact, if you look at the distribution chart between ophthalmologists in the rural areas and optometrists, there is no difference. There is not a lack of coverage for eye care in rural Nebraska between these two groups, there is not. In fact, both groups have the same holds as far as areas of the state that they're...they are in. I would like to see the discussion go to good medicine. The Kristensen amendment is a good amendment and I urge the body to support that amendment, not for optometrists, not for ophthalmologists, but because this is good medicine...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...practiced by those who have the medical training. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Pedersen.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I stand to talk just a little bit about the education. When Senator Crosby mentioned a little bit ago that the oral antibiotics have changed so much in the past five years, I was thinking about how much training our medical people, medical doctors have had in the past five years, especially those who graduated more than five years ago. In recent controversy in the State of Nebraska, we find that medical people, medical doctors are not required, some of them on their own continue their education and go on for continued education units, but they do this on their own. Optometrists are required to have 32 hours of continuing education units every two years. I don't know how much of that is in the area of pharmacology but I would guess if this bill is passed that there will be more of it spent in the area of pharmacology. New medications that come on the market to both optometrists, dentists, medical doctors, where do they get their education about new medications? They get it from the salesman and the saleswoman who comes around, introduces that medication. Most of you know this. They get it from that person and they read the brochures that come with it