

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and members, I think we've really already had the discussion on 429 as we dispensed of the Kristensen amendment. I really cannot add much more to that. If you...the only thing I will...it's one of those things, I know everybody is comfortable and these bills are always frustrating and if you use the one school of thought, you would never change anything in medicine because you never understand it enough, I understand that. The point of view I've always taken and continue to take is to...you know, you look at the 407 Technical Review process and you look at the Board of Health and their recommendation, you look at the Legislature's own Health Committee and the bill advanced six, zero, with one abstention, I mean, I don't...am I depending on people that know more than me on this bill? Yes, I am. I think that's what you have to do when you look at all those people and the lone exception, obviously, was the former Director of the Department of Health, Dr. Wright, I think if you look at all those things together, my comfort level with 429, as amended by the Health Committee, which I think was a good amendment that tightened it up to make sure it was constricted just to the area of eye care, I don't know what else anyone can add. I do know that Senator Jones wanted some of my opening, so I give the balance of my opening to Senator Jones.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Thank you, Senator Moore. I was going to talk on the committee...on the committee amendments a while ago but I didn't get to it. But I wanted to bring out the fact I've got phone calls and letters from Gordon and Valentine and Ainsworth and Broken Bow, all them towns, and most all of them say in the rural area that an optometrist probably removes foreign objects from the eyes than the ophthalmologists and the local family physicians put together, and I think that's a lot of times because they've got welding shops in their small towns and there's always a pit in the welding shop. And I remember one time I got a seed in my eye that went straight in and they had to dig it out and I would hate to have to travel clear to another town for that purpose. So I think it's really important in the rural area. Thank you again.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Jones. Discussion? Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, real briefly, and I will not