

optometrists who are given the analysis of what optometrists do, as Senator Jones said, compared to family physicians. I am sorry, I didn't know we were talking about family physicians today. If I had of known that, I may have changed some of my votes. I thought we were talking about ophthalmologists, and eye care.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: If you are a family physician...I will punch on my light and finish that comment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Bernard-Stevens, your light is on next.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you. If you are a family physician and you have an area that you are not qualified to do because you don't have the ticket, i.e, surgery, what does a family physician do? They go to the person with a ticket. They allow that surgeon to do the work and the family physician is allowed to be there at their side, at the patient's side. But they don't have the experience to do that. Could a family physician do some of the surgery? Absolutely. Do they have the capabilities of doing some of the minor surgeries? Absolutely. Are they going to do those things? No. Senator Jones mentioned that, or someone mentioned, it might have been Senator Horgan, but someone mentioned that in the rural areas some of the optometrists call the ophthalmologist. The ophthalmologist doesn't even see the patient, and he may prescribe some oral medicine and the optometrist then does it. Oh, that was a good argument. That solved it. Let me tell you what really happens out there. You have some optometrists and ophthalmologists that have a good working relationship because they trust the judgment of the others and it has worked very well. They have a comfort level there, and, yeah, sometimes that ophthalmologist will order the oral meds and the other treatment for that optometrist because he trusts their judgment through years of working with that person. But that same ophthalmologist is not going to do that for another optometrist that might be 15 miles down the road because he doesn't have the training. With this bill, we don't have to worry about that. With this bill, they will simply be able to do it. The problem with this type of legislation is it pits personalities. I like my optometrists. I like what they did. Senator Moore can put all of this discussion based upon other peoples, and I was intrigued to find Senator Moore talked about how well they respected the Health