

Senator Moore and I have had considerable discussions about where this bill may go, what we may do. And obviously the option to put on a number of corrections, changes and things to in my mind improve the bill, certainly from Senator Moore's mind would detract from the bill, occurred. What we have agreed to do is I have this amendment that is printed in the Journal, AMS485, that I would offer at this point in time. I believe that Senator Moore and I are comfortable with this amendment. In return, I don't feel that it's probably necessary to extend for long periods of time debate and other attempts to change this bill. Although I think that may be beneficial from my point of view, but maybe from the point of the body that's not the proper way to proceed at this point in time. With this amendment, let me explain what it does. It does two things. First of all, it provides a licensed optometrist who administers or prescribes these pharmaceutical agents which are basically drugs, oral antibiotics, et cetera, these sorts of drugs, that they are going to be compared to a medical doctor who renders the same type of eye care. And so in other words, the optometrists are going to use the same standard of care and have the same duty towards treating their patients that another medical doctor who has and treats, renders that eye care, would have. In other words, they're going to be compared and they're going to be held to the same standard. If they're going to be doing the same sorts of medical procedures, the same administering and prescribing of drugs that they're going to be held to the same standard of care and the duty that you owe to a patient in those situations. That is the first part of the amendment. The second part of that talks about immunosuppressive agents and that these are sorts of things that can be prescribed or cannot be prescribed by optometrists under this particular statute. Those are the two changes and I would offer this amendment and hope that you would see fit to adopt it. And at that point in time we then can discuss the bill and its merits. But obviously I would offer this amendment not to extend debate. There are certainly other amendments I think that would go quite a ways in helping this legislation. But given the fact it's near the end of the session, I will not do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR HALL PRESIDING

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Moore on the Kristensen amendment.