

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Obviously as Senator Kristensen stated there are two parts to his amendment, the first part being simply saying a licensed optometrist who does this, who prescribes these drugs has to be held to the same standard as a physician and I think that only makes sense. I have no problem with that. The second part of the amendment puts a slight further limitation on the type of drugs. And if Senator Kristensen will yield to a question.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Kristensen, would you respond?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR MOORE: Could you tell me what exactly in medical terms immuno...I can't even say the word now...immunosuppressive agents, what you mean by that term?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Immunosuppressive agents are usually thought of, Senator Moore, as chemotherapy used to treat cancer, but since they suppress the immune system, they're used to control those various inflammations. But they're usually thought of as a chemotherapy for the treatment of cancer.

SENATOR MOORE: Anticancer drug or something like that is what it is?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR MOORE: Okay. Given that understanding of immunosuppressive agents and the first part of the amendment, I rise in support of Senator Kristensen's amendment.

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

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Just briefly, Mr. President, members, my understanding of the situation is similar as described by Senator Kristensen to Senator Moore and that this does, I think, set a reasonable standard level for the optometrists to meet that I don't think is out of line. And again, the restrictions in terms of the pharmaceuticals used is a reasonable one so I don't think this changes the bill dramatically but it is a helpful change and I support the amendment.