

presenting this bill, I, with Senator Remmers, and staff from Senator DeCamp's office, and Senator Morehead's office, and a representative from the Governor's office, went to see, firsthand, schools of optometry in Georgia and Pennsylvania. Now, these are representative schools of all the schools of optometry in the nation. We saw, firsthand, the intensive, the extensive and thorough training provided by these schools. We saw students making...working with cadavers, the same as is done in medical school. We saw and observed in the clinics these students working side by side with ophthalmologists and optometrists. Believe me, they have the training. I have no qualms whatsoever in suggesting to you and advising you that the optometrist of today is well trained. Last year, when Iowa passed this similar legislation...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR CHRONISTER: ...the Omaha center was one of the centers where Iowa optometrists could become certified to treat eye diseases. Oklahoma has passed this legislation, along with the states of West Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, New Mexico, Rhode Island, and Iowa. Last week the Governor of Kentucky signed this legislation, and both houses of South Dakota have passed this legislation, and last week the Governor of South Dakota signed a similar bill as 131 into law. It is interesting to note that in the State of Kentucky a spirit of cooperation existed where the medical association cooperated with the optometrists in passing legislation that is far more reaching than the modest scope of LB 131.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time.

SENATOR CHRONISTER: It is important to note that the states of Iowa, Kentucky, and Washington had review processes just like Nebraska with our 407 process, and all received a positive report from the review committee, just as we have here in Nebraska.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time.

SENATOR CHRONISTER: I ask you to support this bill in its current form and to oppose all amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Remmers, please.