

about, eye disease. The lion's share of optometric work is done with lens work, corrective lens work, is also done with some object removal and some of the topical irritations that they can apply topical medications, in other words, drops and things that they would put onto your eye, and they do a very good job of that. Where I get nervous is in the area of drug interaction and drug reaction and that you go to medical school and you go through that internship and that training for a reason and it's not a matter of going for continuing education every year, it's something you pick up. Ophthalmologists see hundreds, if not thousands, of those cases before they're out on practice on their own. Many of the optometrists eventually do go on to be ophthalmologists because they have an interest in eye care and that they enjoy the area and they go on and get their medical degree and that's what an ophthalmologist is, you get your medical degree and then you go on and get your specialty in the eye, and that you get appreciation for the whole system. When you hear the word "systemic" that means taking oral medications for your whole system, your whole body, and it's that drug interaction and it's those things that I have a great fear and that's the reason I bring the amendment to you today. What I think that we can do at this point in time is adopt this amendment. It's not going to be everything the optometrists want, true. It's not everything the ophthalmologists want either. The ophthalmologists would probably like to stuff this. I don't think that's fair either. But, at this point in time, I think you have to look at a couple things. One is that Senator Wesely talked about the three steps of the scope of practice process and he was accurate and to a point but I want to add one other thing. I think, Senator Wesely, you indicated that this was three strikes and you're out, and that's not true, it's one strike anywhere along that step and the process is denied, because you don't get those to come. And I want to read to you a little bit about what the Director of Health said at that point in time about oral medications. This is his very final two paragraphs and I guess I find that fairly instructive to me. And I'm reading from the Director of Health. "There was no demonstration that the current restrictions on scope of practice for optometry, the restriction to the treatment of eye disease with topical medication only causes any harm or danger to the health, safety or welfare of the public." Okay, I can live with that and I agree with that and that's what we'll still have in LB 429. However, the next paragraph and the final one. "On the other hand, the review of the record indicates that the proposed change would create a significant new danger to the health,