

SENATOR WESELY: So in terms of malpractice, they are more exposed than a doctor would be.

SENATOR ABOUD: Okay, there is also...there is some additional questions that are out there. Maybe what I should do is present an amendment maybe to Senator Moore or to yourself as far as some questions that have been raised to me about some of the malpractice issues that are out there involving optometrists. I assume Senator Moore doesn't probably want to hold this bill up on General File to deal with that particular issue, and maybe that will be something that we can talk about on Select File, the malpractice issue that I have kind of touched upon. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator Dierks, you are next.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I just wanted to respond to one of the questions that Senator Hall had. I don't believe he is here right now but he was discussing the steroid issue, and I think that some of the pharmacology surrounding steroids and their productions, steroids are classified as those agents that are formed naturally in the body by the cortex of the adrenal gland. The adrenal gland is composed of an outside part called the cortex, and an inner part called the...I'm sorry, the inside...the outside part is called the medulla, and the inside part is called the cortex. The medulla is responsible for production of adrenalin, and the cortex is responsible for production of cortisone, and the steroids we talk about are those products called cortisone and synthetic products that are developed from that, hydrocortisone, prednisolone, prednisone, dexamethasone; these are a few of those items that are used to provide antiinflammatory reaction. The body makes normally cortisone which does provide for antiinflammatory action wherever it is taking place in the body. That's a natural defense that the body has, and the use of the synthetics will then depress the cortex so that it no longer produces cortisone. So you have to be very careful in its use. Prolonged use of synthetic steroids will, for instance, cause what you call moon-face in people where it causes inflammation of the peripheral blood vessels and it gives you kind of a ruddy look, and makes it look like you are really a rather healthy individual and that could be even the opposite could be true. So that's the reason behind, I think, the fact that the steroid is removed from the legislation