

because it does have some serious side effects that people should be aware of. Senator Hall.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Dierks. I believe my light is on next but I was...and I do appreciate that explanation. My focus of the question I asked of Senator Moore and then Senator Wesely had to do with the issue of what inconvenience, if any, was this going to impose on the patient, and I understand that the...and I do appreciate the, I guess, the severe impact that steroid use or misuse, rather, or mistreatment could have on a patient, and I wanted to get into the record what the committee's interpretation or thought was with regard to the future approach or intent was for the optometrists in terms of expanding the scope of practice to steroids. What I hear you saying is that it's a very...that, in itself, would be a very dangerous move without further education on their part. Senator Dierks, I will give you back your time.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Senator Hall. A couple of other points that I wanted to make was that there has been some mention as to the availability of ophthalmology service across Nebraska and you've been, I don't know if you've received these particular charts, but if you have, you will notice that they have little circles on them that indicate the radius from where these ophthalmologists practice, and I would like to just remind the body that ophthalmologists do not live and practice in those particular areas. They are available to those areas on a basis of appearing in hospitals in those areas on a predetermined basis, possibly every month or maybe two to three...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR DIERKS: ...weeks, but the circles that you see around the optometrists in those areas, those places actually have optometric practices in those particular areas. Those people are residents there and they provide the service there at that time. So the ophthalmology service is available but it is done on a basis of coming in once or twice a month to provide the service. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Before I proceed to