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medications and without restrictions on their ability to treat the disease independently. And you'll also notice that...I would call to your attention that in states that have adopted the laws that allow optometrists to treat glaucoma, the states have never reversed their decision. Optometrists are very professional people, of course, they have their undergraduate degree, they've spent four years in a college of optometry, they get their degree as Doctor of Optometry, and this does not grandfather current optometrists in to treat glaucoma, because they need to be trained, they need to be certified to treat glaucoma. This bill was, of course, heard by the Health and Human Services Committee. Senator Wesely will deal with the amendment. I know there's going to be objections to this bill, but I also know the time has come to pass this legislation. So, without any further comments, I will conclude my opening remarks.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Chair recognizes Senator Wesely to open on the committee amendments. (See Standing Committee amendment, AMO275, on page 705 of the Legislative Journal for the First Session.)

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. The committee amendments deal with a number of concerns that were brought to us about this legislation. As Senator Schrock said, this issue is not a new one to the Legislature. The question of the scope of practice for optometrists has been an issue that I've dealt with in each of the 20 years that I've been a member of this body. Progress has been made, a step here and a step there over time, and this is a proposal to step forward and deal with the question of treatment of glaucoma by optometrists. The original bill allowed for both the topical and the oral use of pharmaceuticals to treat glaucoma. The committee had concern about the use of oral pharmaceuticals by optometrists, and that is the key change in the bill, would delete the ability of optometrists to use oral therapeutics to deal with glaucoma, but would retain the ability to use topical, but not the oral. And this is a compromise that the committee agreed to and is part of the committee amendment, and I call it to your attention. In addition another concern committee members had was the ability of optometrists to deal with infantile congenital glaucoma, and that particular type of