

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Howard Peterson.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would rise to oppose the Clark amendment and the reason why I do is that I have had correspondence on both sides of this issue from people in Grand Island. I think that all of them feel that there is something that needs to be done, but my own personal opinion is that we ought to have a hearing before the Health Committee before we put into legislation something that many of us do not fully understand. And I, for one, am not prepared to vote on something that was...where we start to put in legislation where we haven't had the opportunity of a public hearing for people to appear and to the things that Senator Cullan is suggesting. It just seems to me that it is wrong for us to legislate in this area without that kind of a hearing. And I know that I have people on both sides of the question. I would like to hear the debate, at least know of the debate, and feel that one of our committees in this Legislature heard the debate and are making a recommendation to us. I think we all have got to recognize that everybody has an iron in the fire. Everyone of them wants the thing the way they want it but it would good I think for us to have a hearing and see what our Health Committee feels about it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Clark for purposes of closing.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. Chairman and members, it is not my amendment. This is Senator Warner's amendment from the Performance and Review Committee. I have got a list of twenty reasons right here from a doctor as to what would happen with a contact lens, what could happen, the reason that they have to have a doctor present. He does not have to be fitting them. An optician can do the fitting if he is in his office under his supervision. But if any of these things happen, I am sure that any of you that have contact lenses would want someone there to know whether there is redness, or dryness, or superficial abrasions or whatever the problem is, to have the doctor there to look at it to find out that is true or not true. That is really all the amendment does is to tell what it is, that it has to be under the direct supervision. I don't think you should ever wait to take care of eye health care. I think the best we can do is give the people all the protection in the world we can give them. I had nothing but fighting from the ophthalmologists when I put the eye drop bill through, and all the horrible things they said was going to happen, I want to tell you has never