

SENATOR CROSBY: That was the one big concern. And one of the things that he told me that I thought was interesting is that when you use the telescopic lens, I think I understood him correctly, the side vision is not always there, so I think there are more problems here than we just think of in general sight when we wear glasses with bifocals and even there, when you get your bifocals the first time you have a little problem being able to look correctly at certain things and steps and that kind of thing. The other thing that I would just share with you since we had an awful lot of talk this morning about self-discipline, because I thought this was a good point that the optometrist made, that since we do have a driver's licensing law on the floor of the Legislature right now, that we might consider other driving hazards to be restricted such as fuzzy dice and other paraphernalia in your...that obstruct your vision, tinted read and side windows, pets on drivers' laps, young children not properly restrained, I know we have some legislation coming up on that; cellular telephones, ear phones, drinking cups, styrofoam or otherwise, eating food, applying makeup, combing hair while you are driving. So I just add that into my little dissertation here because...not to get away from the subject, but these people who...and it ties in because these people who do use the telescopic lens do have good driving records and I'm sure they are very attentive on the road and don't have all these other things that would obstruct their view. So I do support you now, and we'll bring something to Senator Robak in the meantime. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, followed by Senator Lynch.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, this piece of legislation is a close call. I think it's a very difficult piece of legislation and deserves some discussion. I sat on the Transportation Committee when the bill was first brought to us and I worked a little bit on the issue through that, and also as a Chairman of the Health Committee I've worked a great deal with different individuals involved. And what you find is slightly over half the states do allow for this type of bioptic lenses to be utilized in drivers' licensing, but also close to half the states don't. It is not a clear cut issue. The question involved in, are we taking an extreme safety risk here or not by allowing these individuals to drive? They did have that right, they did drive. I think their record is probably pretty good.