

Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, if I thought that the record had been shown as well as Senator Dierks claimed that it was, I would feel a little better, but if, in fact, there is evidence that bioptic drivers in Nebraska are as safe as other drivers, it has yet to be presented. I know there are some national statistics that have been relied upon but even they do not say that bioptic drivers are as safe as other drivers. They say that among handicapped drivers or disabled drivers they are the least dangerous of that body of the driving public. But if there is before us, as Senator Dierks just indicated, there was evidence, a track record here of proven safety, I don't know of it and maybe we need to have that and maybe that can allay my fears. What has been placed on our desk are two important documents which I hope you had a chance to take a look at. They come from the proponents of the bill. If you take a look at the bottom of the fourth paragraph of this statement from the American Optometric Association, look at the last sentence of the fourth paragraph because it describes how a bioptic lens is used. Used in this manner, says the last sentence, the bioptic telescope has been used effectively for daytime driving by many visually impaired individuals in the United States. Compare that, by the way, with the other piece that was given to us by Senator Robak. If you'll take a look at the list, of the 27 states that allow bioptic lens drivers to drive, five of them limit it only to daylight. In other words, less than a majority of states permit nighttime bioptic driving. As a matter of fact, 20, what, 22 states don't allow it at all but five states make special rules that do not permit bioptic driving at night. Why? Because the Optometric Association over here tells you that the lens is effective during the daytime. Now these are the supporting documents for the measure. The supporting documents say bioptic lens is good in the daytime and in a variety of states don't permit bioptic lens driving at night. They also in other states have geographic limitations, they have speed limitations. In other words, bioptic lens driving is not, on its own, permitted to stand quite commonly in other states on exactly the same turf with other driving. It's allowed, but with reasonable limitations. What I have yet to hear is a discussion of what reasonable limitations there might be. One is contained in the bill, an annual review. I hope I have that correct. And that is at odds with a normal driver who