

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the body, I hear my humble Chairman of the Appropriations Committee get up, and he revs up his voice about three levels, and then he starts wailing his hands, and he says, this is a lobbyist bill. It's not a lobbyist bill, it's a bill for the 49 people in here to study and make a decision. If you don't know about it, find something out about it. I have a question of Senator Wesely, please. Tell me when an optometrist would call an ophthalmologist. I just don't see it in here. Maybe I'm overlooking something.

SENATOR WESELY: That is a key point.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Sure is.

SENATOR WESELY: Supervision, in my estimation, would require, in every case that would come before them that would involve the prospect of glaucoma, a call to the ophthalmologist that is supervising the optometrist, informing them of the situation and seeking their direction on it. Supervision means the ophthalmologist can direct that optometrist, and the optometrist must act in accordance with the ophthalmologist's direction, that's supervision, to supervise.

SENATOR ROBINSON: What if the optometrist doesn't do that and something happens to the patient?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, there would obviously be malpractice, discipline options, you would be practicing outside the scope of practice, and there would be some repercussions for that.

SENATOR ROBINSON: I really have problems with this amendment. I'm like Senator Kristensen. I have a neighbor that's an optometrist. It would probably be my luck that an ophthalmologist move in on the other side of me. (Laughter.) But I think...I think the real key thing, and I think Senator Baack put his finger on it, is the care of the patient. And I have problems with that. I have problems with one group supervising the other group.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.