

specialist came down, 900 bucks a pop for three hours work, heads back to Lincoln. My physician, my small town physician stays there, takes all the grief before, takes all the grief after for a relatively low cost compared to the guy that comes wheeling into town and hits everybody for about \$2,700, and then slides back into Lincoln. Now the people in Falls City, if they want to drive to Lincoln and Omaha for an instate ophthalmologist, it's a hundred mile drive. So I don't...I don't agree with the committee amendments on that point. I don't agree with the compromise amendment on that point, either. But I'm willing to accept it, cause it is a compromise. Well, my problem is these folks are qualified, they work with these drugs now, and other states do it. And as Senator Moor said, I don't think people have been dying en masse. If we can't get health care in the rural area, we're going to have to drive. And I'm willing and confident with these people that I'm willing to accept them to work on these aspects of the eye. And if, indeed, I'm not confident, then I will drive, I will incur the extra costs. But this is, I mean like you look at the ophthalmologists, it's what a union they have. They don't want to live down in the area, and they won't come down there. It's obvious we don't have any of them down in my area, but they want to keep their finger in the pie. You can recommend, the optometrists can recommend a prescription, but you've got to let the ophthalmologist wave his hand over it so he can get his 65 bucks. Some of my people can't afford that. Some of my people are confident enough, most of my people are confident enough, the people that live and work, and are familiar with them, and they are familiar with the optometrists, and the optometrists work well with the local family practitioners and allow them...to allow them to do these procedures. I think it has a...it goes a long ways...or a small step towards controlling costs in health care. And if, indeed, the doctors and everybody are saying to us,...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: ...well, folks, you just may not be able to have a doctor in the future, are they then later going to say, but that PA, you know, if he makes a decision that we don't quite like, maybe we want to be able to have him call us on the phone so we can get a little \$65 charge out of him. I really think they're competent, they're capable, they're trained, they handle these drugs in other cases, and now some are saying they can't handle them in these glaucoma cases. I think it's really