

important. What's the next step? Are then the optometrists going to say in an emergency, or the ophthalmologists going to say in an emergency that your physician can't touch that eye? You going to have to ship them to Omaha, or Lincoln, or wherever to have a qualified physician address the problem? That could be the next step. And I'm concerned about it. And I think these folks are trained well enough. The review process took place, it was approved, and I think we should support this amendment and move on. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senator Bernard-Stevens, and Senator Schellpeper. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam President, members, I'd like to ask Senator Wesely a couple questions, if I may, Don. I realize I may be putting you on the spot, and I'm not sure I can even accurately state my questions, let alone have you give me the answers, because they may be...tend to be technical, but under the present law we have, there is no consultation obligated between the two, other than what is done voluntarily professionally, right?

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: If, under this bill, we mandate that they consult, and I'm going to use that term consult loosely, but as the amendment is proposed, under new...for new procedures, the ones that are described in the bill,...

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...will that also then carry back and say there must be consultation on procedures done now?

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, no, absolutely not. I'm glad you asked the question, cause this only applies to the new areas provided in the bill dealing with glaucoma. The supervision would not apply to the current practice of optometry.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: And there...if there were disputes among...with the procedures now, the optometry would rule in their area, and the ophthalmologists would rule in their area.

SENATOR WESELY: That's correct, but the actual agreements