

laymen's terms, and I am comfortable with that level. I have the same problems that all of you are having, having respected persons on both sides of this issue. And I will be able to make that decision accordingly. Thank you.

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

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I yield my time, at this point, to Senator Schellpeper.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Senator. Madam President and members, there's been a lot of good comments here this morning. And I certainly agree that there are many well-educated and trained optometrists. But can you imagine somebody that's an optometrist at Wal-Mart or ShopKo treating glaucoma? And that's what you're going to have with this amendment. When you get into medicine, let me say it again, when you're into the medicine, you need to be under the Board of Medicine, and that's what the committee amendments do. The committee amendments are patterned after the Physician's Assistants bill...Act that we have in effect right now. It's working. We have about 60 physician's assistants that are working underneath doctors at the present time, they're working very, very good. It's patterned after that bill. Now when we had both sides together neither one liked the committee amendments. So I thought we had to have a pretty good compromise when neither side liked it that well. We were going a little farther than what either side wanted to really go. So I think we had a good compromise there. Nobody said anything about the committee amendments until after the bill came out of the committee. The bill would not have come out of the committee without this amendment...without the committee amendments on it. That's the only way that the bill was able to come out. So we worked it out. I thought it was all worked out, but, evidently, it was not that well worked out. When you get into the Moore-Wesely amendment, that is not a compromise, it's an optometrists' compromise. It's not a compromise for both sides. It was just a compromise with the optometrists' side. Senator Morrissey, everyone deserves rural health care. You made the comment about that you're worried about rural health care. No one worries about it more than what I do. And I think we need...everyone deserves good health care.