

want people to do this or not, and if you want people to do this, you're going to see it happen, more likely, under the Board of Optometry than the Board of Medicine, that's the key issue. I'm going to give the rest of the time to Senator Moore.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you, Senator Wesely. We've had a lot of good debate. Everybody's saying, well, boy, I don't know which side to choose here cause I've got ophthalmologist friends, I've got optometrist friends, I don't know who the good guy is, who the bad woman is, whatever it is. And, Senator Robinson, you're absolutely right. You know what I'm saying is that the 49 of us should decide that. We hear these speeches often, in here about ignore the lobby, do what we think is right. I'm saying that again, and that's exactly what I am saying, is that you need to look at it and make your own decision. And you need to look at the fact that Senator Wesely has done a lot to try and find...if there is a possible middle ground here, to try and find it. And there probably isn't, the way it sounds. So you have to do whatever you think is right, that's what I ask you to do. Well, also as you go through these, Senator Baack mentions about, you know, that are optometrists qualified to treat glaucoma? And he says, no, they're not. The thing that's puzzling to me is in the month that's elapsed since the committee amendments came out it was the ophthalmologists that said as long as they're under our board they're qualified to do it. Now all of a sudden they're not. And so oddly enough, I mean they already said they could do it, they were qualified to do it. But now, heaven forbid, now that they're under their own board, now that they're under their own licensed, legally in statute, Board of Optometry, so the question of whether or not they're qualified to do it I think was answered when the committee amendments came out. You know and the others have said, how can these optometrists diagnose glaucoma. They do it every day right now. There are several optometrists back there, one back there that has 100 patients that he diagnosed. He is now treating jointly with an ophthalmologist. So that's going on and will continue to go on. The only thing that's different is they will diagnose it, they will contact the ophthalmologist, and with their supervision, they will treat it in their office. Particularly in rural areas that's important, you don't have to drive to Lincoln, or to Grand Island, or to Scottsbluff, the optometrists can work with the ophthalmologists in those towns, and you can drive 15 minutes into town and get your glaucoma treated in an