

SENATOR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I think this is very important that our optometrists out, at least, in the area I live can perform some of these that naturally I can't use names but my optometrist works very close with an ophthalmologist in a town, you know, 70 miles away. He is never going to do anything unless he knows that he's doing the right thing. He isn't going to harm me. I think this is one of them turf battles again. It seems like we have one every year and I don't know why the ophthalmologist gets upset. Most of them are as busy as they can be anyway. And most of the optometrists that...they will check, they'll work back and forth anyway, regardless of the education and everything, well, I just would ask you to support Senator Moore's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rogers. Senator Wesely, did you wish to address the Bernard-Stevens amendment? Senator Robinson, the Bernard-Stevens amendment?

SENATOR ROBINSON: I would stand to...Mr. President and members of the body, I would stand to be in favor of Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment. And Senator Rogers got up and it's just like, boy, you know, it's okay for this guy to do this and this guy to do that, but you know what we're...folks, we're talking about the health of people, forget about the turf battle. We're talking about the eyes of people and it's a very serious...it's a very serious problem. And it goes back to what Senator Schellpeper said, you can't have the student telling the teacher what to do. You can't do it. It's a very important bill and we should pay attention to it. I have questions about...I may...referring to Senator Hefner's question...testimony about, well, we just don't have enough ophthalmologists out there. I've got two sheets here, we've got ophthalmologists all over the state and we've got optometrists all over the state. We've got a lot more optometrists out there because it's easier to become an optometrist, folks, and I'm not putting down optometry. But ophthalmologists get in their car and drive outstate. So I don't...I don't think your argument holds water, Senator Hefner. I just don't think it's any argument on the bill. The argument is that the optometrist should be told by the ophthalmologist what's in there...in that curriculum, the 44 hours, the preceptorship, and I think it's very important when we look at this bill. So I would urge all of you to support Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Dierks,