

board you have somewhat equal representation on this 407 review process. So you can't really take exception to the process because it's done as fairly as it can possibly be done. And I just...I'm going to support the...the Moore amendment and I'm going to support the bill because I really think that to be fair to our constituents in rural Nebraska we need to provide these type of services. We are stressed out right now with...with problems with rural population, with getting rural medical help to these areas and this is an opportunity for us to provide some service to the area. Now I have to tell you about an experience I had in Kansas. Kansas, at this time, doesn't have this type of legislation. We were down to visit an aunt of my wife's and when we got there that evening she was very ill and it turns out...and she was complaining of a headache and thought she had the flu, and it turns out that she is having a glaucoma problem. And we took her to the local optometrist and he said, don't even take her home, go right to the ophthalmologist. We had to drive from Wamego, Kansas to Topeka, Kansas, 45 miles,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR DIERKS: ...to get this service. This is a lady that was in extreme pain, could have been...could have had some service at Wamego, Kansas, but couldn't get it there because they didn't allow this type of service. So we took her to Topeka and she did get the relief. The ophthalmologist did an excellent job and they have a good working relationship in Kansas, but they know they're...they know they can't perform this of medication. So I...I think that I can see the reasons for Nebraska adopting this type of legislation. I think that it is something that will help the rural areas. And I have to stand again and tell you that the map concerning ophthalmologists is not accurate, in my estimation. Thank you.

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

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, I don't know if Senator Bernard-Stevens is around but, Senator Bernard-Stevens, let me again clarify what your intent is here. You're trying to isolate for the discussion purpose at this point the issue of what board should oversee the protocol arrangement between an ophthalmologist and an optometrist. Is that correct?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Bernard-Stevens.