

area very willingly, I think you're making a mistake. If you want optometrists to have the ability to do some of these things that this bill would allow them to do, you almost have to give the Board of Optometry the oversight or you're not going to see progress in any very quick fashion whatsoever. Now, understand there's a risk involved, but let me also assure you that I think the optometrists are aware of the risk as well. If we pass this authority and allow the optometrists to do this and there is a mistake, somebody gets hurt, somebody is injured as a result of this authority, I'll bet you, very quickly, there will be a bill in to repeal that authority and I would guess this body would react to that very positively because we don't want to see injury out there in our state as a result of authority that may be unfairly granted. But, in the past, we have battled and struggled and fought between optometrists and ophthalmologists on issues and the optometrists have gained further abilities and I don't know of any instance of a problem in those past battles that we have fought that any optometrist given that authority has...has injured somebody or harmed an individual. If there is examples of that, I would like to hear about them, because I haven't heard of any. And so we have always fought and spent time and battled back and forth but the end product has been, I think, a fairly satisfactory one to the citizens of the state and to this Legislature. And so, again, if you retain the authority for the Board of Optometry to oversee this, I don't think they will be lax. I think they will recognize that they've got to be careful and if a mistake is made, they will pay the price by having this authority rescinded at a future time. Now let me also follow up with the recommendations that were discussed by the 407 review. This process was in 1989. This is when they spent months and months and discussion after discussion about what to recommend and...

PRESIDENT MOUL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...a couple of reports came out in late '89 and in early '90, so we're talking two years of a lapse since this study was done. Well, that process, you can knock it if you want to but, in my view, it's saved us a lot of time and energy if we would only pay attention to it, because it is a broad-based group of people with some expertise, not trying to be balanced one way or the other, trying to understand the broad perspective, and that three-phase project...process had two