

trying to do and I commend him for doing that, but, unfortunately, this removes some things if the Moore amendment is adopted that I think are absolutely crucial in this legislation. I think what we need to do at this point because of the tremendous confusion on the floor is possibly to retrench a little bit, to back up a little bit and look at this. I think we're in the risk ..at risk of doing something that might be more damaging than good, not in expanding the scope of practice of the...of the optometrists, I think it sounds to me like there seems to be consensus on the fact that that needs to be done. I think it's a matter of how it needs to be done, what are proper safeguards to the citizens of the state and what truly makes sense. It's not bad guy-good guy. I have friends in both professions and that I admire very much but I don't think we can have the Senator Bernard-Stevens amendment. It's drafted wrong. He's trying to accomplish something at this point but it won't accomplish it. I'm going...I'm going to urge you to vote against the Bernard-Stevens amendment. I'm very close to putting up a bracket motion at this point because I'm not sure we're that far apart from a possible compromise relative to this bill. I think if everyone would take the time to look at the Schellpeper amendment that he has offered, you might find that there's a good, good deal of common sense in that amendment. We, in Health and Human Services, as Senator Wesely has said, listen to this type of argument almost on a daily basis. The 407 process is a good process. In this situation, unfortunately, it didn't come out unanimous and Dr. Wright who can be construed, since he's an MD, that he would be slanted in one direction, in effect, cast the one vote out of the three opposed to the expansion of the scope of practice. But we face these situations all the time. They are very difficult to understand. You know, who is he, is it the fox guarding the hen house? If the Board of Optometry controls this, I'm not so sure, I don't know. There's certainly a viable question relative to that. We talked...we haven't even broached the communication and collaboration issue. There's nothing tied down within the Moore amendment that stipulates where that communication and collaboration comes from. Can you call up an ophthalmologist in New York City and collaborate with him over the phone, and then whose responsibility is that? Then whose responsibility does that fall under? Is it the ophthalmologist in New York City? Is it the optometrist then taking the advice or ignoring the advice in Nebraska? That's not tied down within that amendment and I think it's a question that's extremely important. You know, the preceptorship is approved by the