

ophthalmologist, who deals with their patients on a day-to-day basis, willing to take all the petty grief that goes with health care when you go in and visit and complain to your doctor, the ophthalmologist, they see the progression of this patient's problems. They know, they live with it and they can call an ophthalmologist and consult with them and they will do that. Do you really think an optometrist is going to sit there and go, well, this procedure, I'm not really comfortable with it but I think I'll just try it once. I've got to learn it, I think I will just try it now and, hopefully, everything will work out. You think that will happen? We know that won't happen. We know that won't happen. These people are dedicated professionals. We need to allow them to do what they are trained to do. The delicate balance between delivery of services and lack of services, delivery of services and proper training, proper training and who has the oversight, Senator Wickersham made a perfect example. Any of the lawyers in here should not have a problem with oversight by their peers. I don't think any of them would. I think most of us are more comfortable with oversight by our peers. Rural health care is changing. We cannot live in the past. The numbers aren't there. We have to allow delivery of services. We have to look at alternatives to having a hospital, a viable hospital in our community. We have to look at these alternatives because that is a reality. I have people struggling to maintain health care in their communities. And the reality of that is inevitably we may have to change how we do things and we're looking proactively ahead, what if this hospital closes, what are our options? What if we lose service, what can we do...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: ...and how far will we have to drive for those services? We have to think ahead. We have to think proactive. Rural health care in all phases is changing and LB 503 is a proactive bill that looks ahead, gives the proper training, gives the proper oversight and allows us to be flexible in the country on how we achieve our health care. I would urge you to support Senator Moore's amendment, support the bill. Things aren't like they used to be, folks.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Senator Elmer, followed by Senator Byars.

SENATOR BEYER: Call the question.