

February 6, 1992 LB 503

take more time on the floor trying to work out what I think is a potential compromise, I think we ought to go ahead and bracket it and take a little bit of time to work this out and come back to the floor with something that is doable. So I'm going to support the bracket and ask that you support it as well.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker, members. I am opposing the bracket. I don't...I don't know that we can compromise any more. We've been hammering on this issue for years. The optometrists have made their case with me, proven to me that they are willing to accept the training that is needed. Again, that balance between delivering services and proper training, we're not trying to push anything unsafe. We're just talking about delivery of services. And we're not mandating that you must, you shall go to an optometrist. You have the choice, you have the option to go wherever you want, and that's all we're asking, that's all I'm asking. Give us the choice to customize our rural health care delivery. Give us the option. No one is making you do it, just give us the option, give us the ability to deliver in a way we need. Senator Wesely thinks that maybe something can be hammered out. Well, sometimes I think Senator Wesely is a glutton for punishment because this has been hammered on and hammered on, and it's hammered pretty darn thin after this many years. I think those...some of you that voted against Senator Moore's amendment need to rethink. I know some voted against it not knowing, or didn't vote not knowing exactly what the debate was about, the discussion was about. Self-government was one of the main points being brought up there. That is not unusual, and we know that. This is not necessarily a battle of integrity. I see it simply as a battle...a simple turf battle, we're talking big bucks and these folks don't want to give up that cash cow, they don't want to give it up, and I don't blame them, I wouldn't either. If I were an eight hour a day doctor I wouldn't want to give up the ability to just come in, get my big dollars and leave. I wouldn't want to do that. I'm asking you to rethink your position. Give those of us in the country that need the option, give us the options. Again, it's not a mandate, give us the option, let us make our own choices. And again they won't be untrained people, they are professionals, health care professions. We need the ability to adapt with the realities in the countryside. I'm asking you folks to think about it. Those of you that live in Omaha and Lincoln, and urban settings, you