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an optometrist?

SENATOR BYARS: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Byars, some people believe that the eyes are a window to the soul, meaning that you can look into a person's eyes and see into the soul. But to the person whose eyes they are, they constitute a window on the world, or to the world. Would you agree?

SENATOR BYARS: Absolutely.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And those who deal with the eyes, whether it's administering a medication, prescribing a corrective lens, or doing anything of that nature, then added to that diagnosing conditions, such a person should be highly qualified, especially when dealing with children at formative stages. Would you agree?

SENATOR BYARS: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And you're comfortable with what this amendment requires in the way of competency on the part of those who would conduct these?

SENATOR BYARS: Yes. May I explain that just a bit, Senator?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Sure. I don't want to just ask you and you can't elaborate.

SENATOR BYARS: In our visits with the optometrists and the ophthalmologists, the doctors, they have told us that what they intend to do, because so often the PAs, and they have the training, and the nurse practitioners, they have the training to do the actual school physical as it is, have enough training and the appropriate equipment to see if there's a possibility of one of these diagnosis, internal or external; at that point, they would not practice past their scope, but they would say, we need to have an optometrist or a doctor see you to do a further evaluation.