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so I've come to the conclusion, and it's been a difficult...it's been a difficult decision because I know that optometrists feel they are qualified, and I'm sure they have lots of training and I'm sure that they are doing a lot of good for the people that they treat, but I come to the conclusion that I do simply because this looks like a way to resolve an issue that's been going on for as long as I've been up here. And, in fact, if the optometrists are willing to accept this kind of a...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...compromise and the ophthalmologists certainly would be willing to accept this kind of a compromise, it appears to me, at least from my view of it, it's a way to resolve an issue, as I said, has been going on for so long. And so given those kind of situations, I'm leaning toward supporting this amendment because I think it brings to an end the discussion that's been going on for a great deal of time. And with that, I appreciate, Senator Kristensen, your bringing this compromise before us and hope that more people can see way to support it and get this behind us. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Maurstad, please.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President. Generally speaking, I would agree with the premise that compromise...compromise is good, but I also think there are certain circumstances when an either/or decision is better. I don't subscribe to the premise that this compromise will bring an end to this particular circumstance. I could see a scenario develop where, in fact, there would be difficulty with optometrists being able to generate these agreements with ophthalmologists because of location, because of number of ophthalmologists available, whatever, and that becomes more of a nuisance than what it's worth relative to the public health and safety of individuals, and then they would then be back before us saying, this hasn't worked and ask again for what is being asked for and for us to consider in the underlying Schrock bill. So my preference is to have this issue be resolved in more of an either/or fashion. I think that patients have the ability to select their health care providers, and I believe that there is