

close then because I believe it is imperative that we understand on this floor that the Department of Health shall draw an examination that shall determine whether or not an individual is qualified to apply the drugs. I think that it is impossible to believe that a course can be passed in pharmacology and that an examination can be passed prior to the enactment of this bill that would meet all of the specifications of the bill. Therefore, it is my belief, that if I vote for this bill, that the Department of Health shall draw the examination that shall protect the health of the public. If anyone has any objections to that or believes otherwise, then I would say now is the time to speak up.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I am sure all of us are concerned about the welfare of the patient. I spoke on this bill when we discussed it on General File and one thing I want to be sure of and that was I could satisfy myself that the element of risk was nil, at least almost so, and I pointed out to the body at that time the training, the education, the optometrist had to take before they could be qualified to even practice in our state and then the additional training that they had to take in order to use the drugs that we are talking about here, and I did satisfy myself. I could go over that again. I don't think it is necessary but I would like to pose several questions. One of them has already been alluded to, if there is an element of danger, why hasn't the insurance rate been affected in the twenty-two states that now allow this type of practice. Secondly, I am pretty well acquainted with all of those that are practicing optometry in my district and I asked them this question: Would you be willing to assume the risk of applying a drug if you knew it would jeopardize your insurance rates, your reputation and even your right to practice, and there answer was, certainly not. Now that is just common sense. I have a letter that came to my home written by a student coming from just south of where I live and I should read the entire letter. Maybe others of you have it. It goes on to say that I am seriously considering returning to the State of Nebraska to set up practice as an optometrist. I am at present receiving special training in pharmacology which will train me in the practical and correct means of administering eye drop medicines to help in diagnosing eye problems. He goes on and asks that we support this bill. He said I want to return to Nebraska. He also emphasizes that twenty-two states currently have such an