

have a very fine facility in Omaha where they can get this in depth study. I returned from my visit convinced there is excellent education in optometry schools, and that we should pass this legislation for the citizens of Nebraska. I ask you to consider what I have said and to vote for LB 131.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Cal Carsten is next, but may I introduce two guests. First of all Senator Miller has a group of 11 guests from the Davenport Women's Club in Davenport, Nebraska, accompanied by their chairman, under the north balcony. Would you please stand and be recognized. Thank you, ladies. Senators Hoagland, Beyer and Abboud have five junior high students from Westbrook Junior High in Omaha, accompanied by their teachers. They are in the north balcony. Would you please stand. It says north balcony here, but I think that is the east balcony. Thank you for being with us this morning. Senator Cal Carsten, please.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support the...LB 131 as amended now. I am not going to prolong it. This bill has been before us for a long, long time. Some of you remember Senator Clark carrying the water for it several times, and never has been passed. There has...well, yes, it was passed and then was vetoed, as I recall. However, there has been a tremendous amount of work put into this, some concessions made, and I believe that at this point this bill is now in good form. And to the best of my knowledge, while it is not wholeheartedly accepted, there has not been a real mounted opposition to it like there has been in the past. It seems to be appropriate that the time has come for us to be in compliance with our surrounding states so that our border optometrists can do their business with people across the line when they come into them. I would urge your support in advancement of the bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Hefner, please.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, in previous years I have opposed a bill like this, but I've got a change of heart this year, and I'm going to tell you why. I'm going to support this bill. I've done a lot of research on it. In the previous years, my family doctor, who is also a personal friend of mine, asked me to oppose the bill because he didn't think that it was for the best interest of