

qualified to treat. They were qualified to do many important things, but certainly not to treat. I think it is interesting also to point out that the argument is generally made that this is a disagreement between optometrists and ophthalmologists. A lot of us lay people have a hard time even pronouncing some of these words. But an ophthalmologist, there are about 70 of them in the state, they are a step above and a specialist in the treatment of the eye, are licensed and authorized to do surgery. This is the wrong kind of a comparison. What we are talking about is the primary treatment of the eye that can be provided by the over 800 general practitioners who do, in fact, exist around the state as compared to the two hundred and fifty some optometrists. Both are certainly qualified in their own regard and in their own fields. But the primary treatment of the eye, should it ever be necessary to treat, can be adequately provided by the adequate number of physicians, primary physicians that do exist across the state. It is also important to point out that in the State of Iowa, where the laws were recently passed, that they are not permitted, even though in the testimony before the technical committee by someone from Iowa to treat glaucoma, the impression might be left that they are qualified to do that. In fact, the impression was left, as I understand, in the hearing that they were qualified and the law provides for that in Iowa. That is certainly not true. I simply point these things out to point out to you that this is, in fact, a serious problem. It is not something simple that just comes along once in awhile. You know, it is the kind of thing that can lead, to be completely frank, to higher costs. Whenever anyone is allowed to expand their scope of practice, those people already providing and performing that service still exist. Those costs do not go away. It's a turf battle. It's the kind of a problem you get into between maybe plumbers and steam fitters about jurisdiction, and who, in fact, should be allowed to perform those responsibilities; a terrible, a terrible problem. There are some interesting aspects of this issue pointed out in also the minority report,...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR LYNCH: ...as it was pointed out by Dr. Bloom from Iowa as it involved the treatment of glaucoma. I should also like to point out that there can be and will continue to be, whenever any kind of a practitioner art feels it has