

Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam President, and members, I rise to oppose Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment, not...because I don't want to split the question. I think this question is a question of basic rural health philosophy and I know Senator Robinson and Senator Schellpeper want the same thing for their folks as I want for mine, and that's the ability to obtain service without having to wait for someone to show up and make their rounds, if they make rounds, and not having to drive long distances if they're living on...if they're a notched person, 480 bucks a month Social Security and possibly don't own a car, don't drive, not have to go out of their way to obtain basic health care. And that's my philosophy. And I have worked at developing that philosophy at making health care and lifesaving options available to the folks out in the country. We'll have a bill later, coming later that will address some of those ideas. But it's the basic philosophy of those of us out in the country is where are we going to get the service and what is actually available? Now, again, I look at that map too and I am amazed that I must have 15 or 20 ophthalmologists working down in my district and I never realized that, I never did. It looks like there's more ophthalmologists than there are optometrists and I guess I just don't hear from them. I do have just recently an ophthalmologist that has started serving a portion of my district, very qualified, very well trained, and our doctors and our optometrists are very happy to have him in the area. But it's the basic, again, just boils down to delivery of services and proper training and who shall govern in the instance of this amendment. And I think it all goes together. Again, the 407 review process is not just some people we gathered off of the street and said, here, sit down, listen to this, we talk to them an hour and explain the facts, pros and cons, and then say, what do you think. It's a long in depth process, nine months or so. They have plenty of hearings and the board is structured different, Senator Robinson, for each issue. They don't have the same people reviewing EMS recommendations as they have reviewing optometry and optometrist issues. They structure the board in a way that is set up with people knowledgeable in this...these areas and a good mix of people in this area, the way a board should be set up. And we can all have our own philosophy on who should govern who and whether it's an assistant governing an assistant vet, governing a vet. I have some problem with some of the language you've been using here this morning. This is not an assistant, this is a trained