

April 12, 1978

LB 884

SENATOR MARESH: Right, any accredited medical school in the United States.

SENATOR CLARK: It makes no difference where it is?

SENATOR MARESH: Right.

SENATOR CLARK: Okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise in support of Senator Maresch's bill, LB 884. I believe that it is a bill that has some considerable appeal and I think that it may do some good. I would like to point out, I have a letter this morning in my mail from a gentleman in northeast Nebraska who is complaining because of the fact that it is very difficult for outstate Nebraska students to get into medical school. He outlines a very good cause for his argument. Several years ago I drafted and introduced a bill which would have required that there be rural physicians and general practitioner physicians on the Board of Admissions of the College of Medicine. At that time there was a great uprising by the Medical School in opposition to this suggestion. They did not want to have placed into statute the requirements for the admission's committee of the College of Medicine. Now, we have heard that there is a shortage of applicants from rural Nebraska, that is frankly not true. I have here before me a the case of a young man with a 3.6, 3.7 grade average, very good grade average, four years of undergraduate work who has been turned down. Now, I'm sure that there are many of those. But, I want to point out that there are a multitude of applicants from rural Nebraska. Now, I don't want any special attention for rural students over any other students, but I think that if we...we raise a lot of comment about how you get a man to practice in a small community. Well, I think that we are people, we are creatures of our own environment. Those of us who grew up on farms and small communities tend to like that. Those who grew up in the cities seem to like that. So, it is only natural that we gravitate back to the sources of our origin. Now, I like the idea that there be a rural doctor on the admissions committee. As I said for a period of time, voluntarily the College of Medicine provided that there would be one on there. Now the argument that we have heard is that it is too difficult for the outstate practitioners to travel to Omaha for the meetings. I don't consider that to be a valid excuse. I think that is a weak excuse. I know of many rural practitioners who are dedicated and interested and would be pleased to serve on the admissions committee of the College of Medicine. I do not want to amend this bill to require that the admissions committee be made up of practitioners from across the state. But, I want it to be a matter of record that unless the College of Medicine reverts to the practice that they assured me that they would adhere to, and that there would be representation from across the state on the Board of Admissions, then I will give serious consideration to making that a statutory requirement. I don't think Senator Maresch would have any objections to that, nor do I think anyone else would, outside of the college. I don't

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