

that we say we have done as a Legislature to address a problem, but, in effect, it is not going to impact upon that problem one iota. We will just be...have, depending on what fiscal note you believe, a million dollars less in our budget, half a million dollars less, or some dollars, some numbers in between. Why don't I think this bill will be effective? For three very basic reasons, number one, there is no need-based requirement in this bill at all. There is no requirement that the young person seeking to enter the nursing profession has to demonstrate that these dollars will make a difference in whether that person goes on to nursing school or doesn't. Everybody from the poorest family in the state to the wealthiest will receive this five hundred...or every student, from the poorest to the wealthiest, will receive \$500, meeting one of the particular requirements there, \$500 for having gone through this nursing program. Secondly, they won't receive the aid when they need it, when it is time to buy books, when it is time to pay tuition, when it is time to do other things. They get it after the fact. The analogy I use, and I don't think it is an inaccurate analogy, although it may be stretching the topic, it would be like this Legislature saying we want to attack the housing problem, the homeless problem in this state, that we are concerned because we have people out on the streets without a place to live. So to solve that problem, we are going to give \$500 to every person after they have moved into a new house, after they have already shown that they can build a new house and move into it, and we will give that \$500, not only to the poorest person in the state, but also to Willie Theisen to build his new house out in Regency and all those wealthy, wealthy people that Senator Hannibal builds houses for. We would not in the wildest stretch of our imagination think that we have solved the housing problem of the homeless by doing that, but that is what this bill does. It gives money after the fact based not on need at all. Third, the impact of the bill, I question whether it is going to have that much of an impact. We had one testifier for the bill use the figure, \$50,000, for nursing education. That may be high, it may not be high, I don't know but that was the number one of the people that runs a nursing education program used. I assume talking about not just tuition but books, room and board, everything else. That individual might qualify for \$1,500 worth of assistance, again, after the fact, after they have raised the money, under this particular program. The rural incentive, it is a nice incentive, and I am not an urbanite that thinks everybody in the state should come to Omaha and the Omaha area. We have got problems in rural Nebraska. We need to address