

increase primary care physicians. I look at this as an extremely positive thing. Is it going to make these rural physicians rich? Absolutely not. Will it help them to at least get to a break-even point, maybe even make a buck or two on these people? Yes, it will. And I think it's our obligation to do everything we can to enhance this. I understand we'll continue to get lukewarm acceptance...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BYARS: ...from the Nebraska Medical Association, but I think it's going to be lukewarm and I think it behooves us, everyone of us that's voted for and supported rural health care initiatives to continue to support things just like this, or instead of enhancing these physicians they are going to continue to get us into a crisis situation. I'm finding it in my communities now, people that can go to the emergency room in the city, guaranteed wage, more than they're making now with no capital at risk, no malpractice problems, I think it's important that we have to move forward in this direction. So I urge you to support the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. Further discussion? Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I mentioned to Senator Wesely we're...we want to bring a little bit more discussion to kind of get more of the blood flowing within the body until we get to the last couple which may be a little bit more lively as far as the amendments and discussion. I simply want to make a couple points. Number one, as I think about it, I probably will not be voting either way on the committee amendments or the bill. There probably is a conflict of interest that I should somewhat avoid on this one or at least file the paper first before I vote. But, nonetheless, I want to make a couple of points. Senator Byars is absolutely correct, we need to be moving in these directions but I just don't want the body to begin thinking that what we're doing here is something that's going to cause rural physicians, urban physicians in the primary care area to all of a sudden there's an incentive to see more Medicaid patients. This bill will not do that. What this bill probably will do is maintain the status quo. They will not continue the trend of seeing fewer patients, with the increase there may be...they may be willing to keep the same level that they have. That's point number one.