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FLOOR DEBATE

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10-15 years, we're talking about possibly losing a third congressional district. So I cannot imagine newly graduated physicians wanting to come there and practice. We need these women out there, or men, whoever has got the advanced degree. Boy, did that wake everybody up? You all awake now? Women or men who want to become advanced practitioners, we need that. We need any...whatever we can do to encourage them to do that. And I know that there are a lot of good people that want to serve but simply do not have the finances to further their education. Many nurses are the sole support of their family. It takes a lot of money to go to college, and they are serving not only their families by working and supporting them, but they're also serving the public by being in their profession. And they are desperately needed. We do have a nursing shortage and in order for these women to have enough finances and resources in order to further their education, in order to do the things that are necessary to serve rural Nebraska's healthcare, we need this money. So I'm not going to beat a dead horse any more than I already have, but I'm grateful for this bill, I'm grateful for Senator Price, also for LB 146 that I helped to support last year, and I'm very tenacious in support of this fund that she has brought to us and I thank her for that. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Combs. Continuing debate on the Beutler amendment. Senator Raikes, you're next.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Madam President and members of the Legislature. This is a bill that I did not support coming out of committee. I don't remember if I voted for Senator Price's bill last year, which was creating the program but without funding. Maybe I didn't, and if I didn't it would have been because I don't like the idea of loan forgiveness. To me, it's sort of a way to trap people into a certain situation via a stipend or a promise of some money. Different people have different views on that and I'm...that's just mine, but I'm quite comfortable that somebody else would think differently. On this particular program, though, there are a couple of three things that bother me. One is that the proposal last year was...by Senator Price was that it would not involve any state appropriation. And I will tell you, I think she worked very