

teaching yet today, and that is changing quite rapid. In 1987, I think that we had only 287 RNs graduating in the state and about 300 LPNs, or a 55 percent drop from 1983 just to 1987. Another comment last evening from business is education, and education is important, and this is a tool for these associate nurses, RNs, to upgrade their education and to provide better rural health care. That is the second part of the bill. I won't go into a lot of those statistics, surveys, but the demand is there. It is very, very critical. The home health care, Pat Snyder said that we would give anything just to have a nurse, an RN, guarantee us one year's employment in our nursing homes, and through the new OBRA, which is the Office of Budget Reconciliations Act, they are going to place new demands on nursing. That is, by October 1st, 1990, all nursing homes must have licensure nurses on duty. Now that can be LPN for two shifts and an RN for one shift, but in the skilled, of course, it is registered nurses, and they, frankly, are saying they will probably have to ask for an extension of that or for some more time because the nurses simply are not out there for the nursing homes. The cost of nursing education is considerable. A few years ago Kearney State College told me in the budget cuts that if there was any program that they would have to probably reconsider would be their nursing program because it is such an expensive program, one on one, that maybe or maybe not they could afford to have it. The average full-time nursing RPN undergraduate programs in the state runs from about \$5,151 to \$12,972 per student. For LPNs, it runs from about 3,000 to \$4,700 per student. Of that, the tuition rate for the LPNs is from 1,095 to 6,600, tuition alone for the RNs. In the community college at home, it is approximately about \$3,000 a year, \$1,600 or 2,000 for tuition and then for uniforms, supplies, and so on is approximately the cost. Creighton has a program at Hastings College that is about \$8,000 a year. So it doesn't take too much of a mathematician to figure it out. If these LPNs are going out at the first starting level at 5.50 an hour to \$6, maximum of \$7, how in the world can you be enticed into nursing when the wages and the salaries and with that much of a cost in going to school. Seven states that I happened to check are known to have special nursing education grants and programs. Florida contracts with an individual institution independence. Illinois has a \$16 million program of health education student grants, which includes many health professions. Massachusetts, \$3,000, 300,000 student grant; New Jersey, student grants, and so on. I weighed this very much. I know there will be a concern and a concern on the floor, and I