

them. And an incentive for people that work to take their skills to rural Nebraska is a good concept, but, again, we were told in our committee hearing that an individual who would get a nursing job in Omaha would probably make \$4 an hour more than a person who would get that same type of nursing job in rural Nebraska. Four dollars an hour translates to I believe approximately \$4,000 a year, as I recall our quick calculations. We are giving that person a \$1,000 incentive to take those skills or to keep those skills in rural Nebraska. Instead of saying, he is only going to make \$4,000 a year more to go into the metropolitan area, you are going to make only \$3,000 more. I don't think we would have that much effect. There are other approaches that I could be convinced might be better approaches. I know Senator Schellpeper has a bill that came out of Health and Human Services Committee that frankly I may have some problems with also but not as great, because it does, in fact, have a need-base component to it. The people would have to genuinely demonstrate that they have a financial need to go into nursing school. There are other approaches. I would be much more comfortable carrying a bill or carrying an amendment or working with Senator Nelson or other people on a scholarship program, targeted to nurses, that individuals would actually get enough assistance to make a difference and would actually get...and it would actually go to those individuals that have the need. Now I know Senator Nelson will be talking to you about helping a large number of people as opposed to a small number of people. Though the type of dollars we are talking about, you spread those dollars out over a large group of people, they get to the point where they really don't have any impact on the decision of the person to enter the nursing profession or the ability of a person to pay their bills as they go through their nursing program. And I am sorry to do this because the bill has absolutely the highest motivation behind it. It deals with a serious problem. It is a problem that I don't know if the State of Nebraska through the state government is going to be able to attack that problem or not. I know we like to feel good about doing things. We like to feel as though we have solved the problem. We like to say we passed legislation to deal with these sorts of situations, but if we are going to do that, we have to look at the dollars we have in the state treasury, target those dollars to where they will do the most amount of good, and I don't think LB 357 does that.

SPEAKER BARRETT: For purposes of a response to the motion to kill, Senator Nelson.