

studies. To offset the tuition charges many students seek financial aid. Although not all schools offering RN programs responded, the percentage of students on financial aid ranged from 39 to 79 percent. The average amount is 2,536 to 4,900. In LPN the percentage is 25 to 72 percent. For those students receiving financial aid the amount varied from 950 to \$1,600, but you've got to draw them in, you've got to entice them into the medical profession in the first place. I have worked with many, many professionals. I invite you to open up your bill book and read the number of people that were here to support that bill. I know Senator Withem didn't like my bill. He cut off debate. People drove in from Cozad, Nebraska, from Hastings, Holdrege and so on, were not given the opportunity to testify. I'm sure they turned in their written testimony on the bill. Larry Hall came in, a lot of outstate hospitals had contacted him, so I know the problem is there. It is very serious. The bill was purposely set up this way. Let me explain...I can explain the college grant programs to you. Just this morning we contacted the UN-O Medical Center. Grants and needs are set up on a complicated basis, congressional methodology volumes, comes in volumes and volumes. You push in enough buttons, and if it comes out to zero, that person gets financial aid. A lot of these people that I'm trying to reach are girls that have a family and that need to further their education particularly in the extended credit program. I am offering another amendment that still tightens up the bill further, and so that no one could abuse it, and I think that anything that is offered or anything to help to bring them into the nursing shortage and it really bothers me when I see these bills out here on the floor, and as I say, passing them out from education, 500,000 here, there, this doesn't mean anything. I don't know of a bill on this floor that addresses the need any more than this bill does right here, and with that, I will respond to any other questions.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. To the regular speaking order on the motion to kill the bill, Senator Smith, followed by Senators Withem, Schimek and Moore.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'll be very brief. Senator Nelson is probably the best person in this body as far as facts are concerned. When she said she does her homework, she does her homework. Senator Withem, I'm sure, has his reasons for wanting to IPP this bill, but I think if he is saying that this does not address the problem, he is a little