

people, we're going to have a need that is not going to be met and it is going to grow worse and worse if we don't do this. I will not support the IPP motion and I hope that you have listened. I see a lot of people on the floor, but I do hope those of you that are here or even if you're somewhere else, are listening. This is critical. We just passed a bill from General Reading (sic) which deals with rural health in rural Nebraska. We've got to have nurses out there in order to facilitate this. Senator Nelson, would you like to have the rest of my time?

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you. I think one point that I can...explains it about as good as other. From a family at Mead, Nebraska, our daughter is a first-year student at Bryan Memorial School of Nursing. She loves the program, is doing very well and will make an excellent nurse. However, it is a very costly program. So far we have found it impossible to obtain money through any student loan program to assist with her education. We farm, and it seems that if we own anything you are found ineligible for any assistance. How many of you have been told that? Middle income people, you've either got to be very poor or very wealthy.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR NELSON: They do not seem to realize that you can't sell off your assets to educate your children or soon you won't be farming. Given last year's drought and the possibility of another one this year makes financially her education a very serious matter. Any help that you can be approved will be greatly appreciated. Let me explain to you the student...the SSIG program, final characteristics of student nurses in the programs. Because of curriculum and clinical responsibilities, student nurses most often are unable to work. Nursing is an accelerated program. The tuition and fees for student nurses are higher than the fees for nonnursing students attended during an academic year. Clinical facilities for nurses are often located in a town other than the home town. Uniforms, a watch, student nurses are single parents with family financial responsibilities. Other student nurses are often expected to maintain at least one-half of financial responsibilities. This creates a financial burden while the student is enrolled and it limits ability to repay loans following graduation. I know...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired. Thank you. Senator Withem.