

SENATOR MOORE: I'm back.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: The only response I have to that is that I...how about the student, the college student that wants to make a future in life that can't get any tuition assistance? I mean, that's what...that is my higher priority, unfortunately there, and if I can give the balance of my time to Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Bernard-Stevens, approximately a minute and ten seconds.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: That might be enough to make a couple of points. Senator Jacky Smith made a couple of points that I kind of want to respond to. She said, a lot of us in the body aren't dealing with facts and only Senator Nelson is dealing with facts and I kind of want to refute that just a little bit. I sit on the committee and I agree with Senator Nelson's intent to the bill perfectly, that we do have a terrible nursing shortage and we need to do those things that are workable, doable and effective in order to solve this growing crisis, but one of the couple points that I'd like to make if I have time and hopefully later on I'll be able to make the points a little bit further, is the rural incentive, for example, part of the bill. I hear this fact that we need rural nurses out there and that is true, but I asked the question in the committee. I said, what is the difference, Senator Smith, I said what is the difference in salary and benefits between urban eastern Nebraska nurses and rural Nebraska nurses and it was a tremendous difference in salary. So the incentive in the bill was that if you were in a rural area for one year, they will give you one time a thousand dollars, and that was an incentive, and in doing so, they are going to sacrifice then an urban job where there is also a shortage, a job that would pay them more than \$1,000, better benefits, year after year after year.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: That is not an incentive and I'll speak to the other parts of the bill when I do have more time. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schellpeper, please.