

somewhat. Part of the problem is not so much getting nurses into schooling, though that is a problem, part of the problem is keeping them in once they are in the profession because the hours are unsteady, the work is difficult and the pay is low, very similar to testimony we heard last night on LB 89 on teachers' salaries. Part of the problem in the nursing area and the medical area is we have to address the working conditions and the work load and the unusual schedules and pay, and this bill does nothing to help that along. It is a relatively high cost that will not change the matter of what people have to do to get the degree. It is not a rural incentive at all and, in fact, it would be a disincentive because I get a one-time cost and from then on I'm back on the low income where everybody else in the eastern part is getting higher incomes year after year after year, and it does not address the true problem of the industry. I wish it did, but it does not. And, Senator Nelson, I do agree with Senator Schellpeper, I would hate to see the bill killed because there is so many things we need to do. Unfortunately, as it is written now this bill does not do that and I know there are other bills that will be pending, I think Senator Schellpeper may have one of those, but there are other bills that we might be able to use with a little bit more thought and a little bit more study and a little bit more input that would have a truly lasting effect on things that we need...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...in the nursing industry. And I thank Senator Schellpeper for the use of his last minutes.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Nelson, followed by Senators Schmit and Hall.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, if Senator Schellpeper would study the provisions of the bill, the rural incentive is given out by the State Department of Education. It is not going to out-of-state nurses. Technically, that is in the bill. I also have another suggestion to encourage nurses to seek continued employment in, and if we want to, people that can't read it, if we want to put Nebraska in, and I can, but the Nebraska Department of Education is not going to give that incentive to that nurse in Iowa or Louisiana. That is taken care of in the bill. People are going to stay. For example, the second part of the bill, very, very valuable in the North Platte community, given out by Bishop Clarkson Hospital in