

LB 357, as Senator Nelson has brought to us, is not enough to get these individuals into the profession. You have the same problem with this profession as you do with the folks who were down here en masse last night. They don't get paid enough. It is not that they are not willing to go into the profession, but when they look at what the bottom line is when they come out, there is no way--Senator Bernard-Stevens is absolutely right when he says that the working conditions are poor, the hours are unregulated so to speak, and that there are no benefits with regard to advancement or salary. The wages that are paid for these people who basically substitute as doctors, because they do, they, in many cases, are oftentimes just as valuable if not more valuable than the doctors themselves, are much below what they deserve to be. I agree that the issue is an important issue that we need to address but we cannot address it in this fashion. Where do we stop? I guess my point is is that this is bad public policy. Where do we stop? At what point do we say we need more engineers so we're going to provide incentives so we keep those engineers here in the State of Nebraska? We need more architects so we're going to provide for incentives to keep architects who graduate from school here in Nebraska. I don't think anyone will say we need more attorneys, but that, too, may come up. I don't know that we would want to pay them. We ought to charge them to practice here in the state. But the issue is a legitimate issue. Where does the laundry list end once we start down this path? And I just believe that this is bad public policy. I believe the intent is right on the mark. The problem is reaching the critical stage and Senator Nelson is absolutely right when she says, if we don't get some nurses out there, we are going to have serious problems with health care issues. Hopefully, the bill that was heard earlier this morning that dealt with the regional health centers will help alleviate some of that problem, but it is...I don't believe what we're doing here in LB 357, an incentive, whether it be 500 or whether it be 1,000, whether it be \$5,000 for that matter, is going to be enough to attract anyone to the profession.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: The issue is one of raising their standard of living so that they are willing to take on the position, take on the career not for a year in the rural area, but for a lifetime because until you do that, there are not going to be enough people that pay attention to a \$500 incentive as laid out in LB 357 and I see us starting down the path of saying that in