

concern on the bill that it didn't do any good to have a part in there that had an incentive for rural areas. The urban areas, they have more schools, and I don't think the nursing shortage is quite as critical. Of course, they feel like it couldn't get any worse than it is even in the Omaha and the Lincoln areas. But I would like for the body to particularly note this because I was criticized on the bill, and I think that someone did make the remark in the public hearing, but Senator Stevens particularly came down on me that I couldn't keep them down on the farm when they were paying so much money in Omaha or Lincoln. As of day before yesterday, I checked the Omaha and Lincoln hospitals and the Grand Island hospitals. That was simply not true. Two major hospitals in Omaha, their RN starting wage is \$9.50, and \$10.40, respectively, and two major hospitals outstate, the RN starting salary is \$9.35 and \$9.63. So there is not the discrepancy between outstate and urban. On the LPNs, in Omaha, the more expensive hospital, it is \$6.96 with a 10 percent shift differential, and outstate, it is \$5.98. So we are not seeing the \$4 an hour difference. I did amend my bill. I will speak to the amendment later. It simply is an incentive to try to entice people into nursing and help them with part of their cost because it is far more expensive to take a nursing course than an average journalism course.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. With that explanation, Senator Nelson, would you like to proceed to your amendment at this point?

SENATOR NELSON: Yes, I partially alluded it to you. The amendment has been passed out on your desk. Some in the body, and I guess that I really thought that anyone that went into nursing was dedicated, a caring and concerned person, and to take up the nursing profession, you probably never would think that you would get rich. So to me about everyone is needy that does, but there was a concern for need, and I did an extreme amount of work because you run into one problem or another. First I thought I would design it on unmet need. That doesn't work. You take a hospital, for example, Creighton in at Hastings, it is \$8,000 a year for a nursing course. Say, for example, they would get \$4,500 in other incentives, scholarships and loans, the unmet need would be \$3,500. You take a nursing course at Central Community College or I will say Union College, or I will just say Central Community College, which approximately the tuition is 1,600 but \$3,000 cost. Okay, if that girl gets loans and grants and so on, brings it down to