

SENATOR NELSON: I think I have a couple of other things on...oh, Senator Schellpeper said, and I don't know where they got their figures but I have the LB 890 study here that I don't know what was the figure, 60 to 90 percent of the nurses leave the area. On Table 21, which is the LB 890 nursing study, in Adams County, the number of nurses that took training, Adams, Buffalo, Dodge, out of state, 16.9 went out; in Buffalo County, 21.3; Hall County, 19.3; Lancaster, 20; Scotts Bluff, 21.4. It is not 60 or 90 percent of the students in Nebraska leave the state, and this is RNs. The LPNs are those nurses that are home down on the farm in Hastings, Nebraska and Dannebrog, Nebraska. I think there was another point of his bill that I didn't like. Only the 50 people in one year going out to the rural area...

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

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, what we have here is the battle of the bills, two different bills, attempting to accomplish the same thing, and we are, unfortunately, I think, involved in a pride of authorship sort of situation, and I would ask the body to pull itself out of that and look at the merits of the two concepts that are before you. I know it is legislative etiquette or policy or procedure that the chair of the committee is supposed to defend the bill that came through his or her committee. Unfortunately, I can't do this in this case because I do believe Senator Schellpeper has created a concept here that is probably a better concept. Frankly, I still have reservations about the whole general idea but it is one that I feel with the Schellpeper amendment adopted I could probably be supportive of the bill. Why do I think it is better? First of all, I believe both concepts now have a need base in it which was a major concern of mine, but the Schellpeper bill now requires these nurses to qualify for this credit to practice in the State of Nebraska, and that is a big difference. If we are going to give incentives to entice people into a profession because our state has a lack of those people, it is beside me why we should not put a qualification on their qualifying for this assistance that they stay in the state, and I think that is a good change. I also think that the amount of assistance to a smaller group of people is a good idea. To give \$500 to an individual is not going to change that person's behavior one iota I don't believe. True, you don't get as many people but I think it is better to use the dollars that we do have to target on a specific group of people. I guess the third