

Department. This would simply be a continuation of the same program that they are funding and handling now and the student loans are addressed in the Education Department. So I know that the physicians college loan and so on is held through the Health Department but this is an education bill, it is education assistance and the Education Department felt also, not that the small amount that the two different departments requested amounts to a lot of money, that they could handle this, I think for a...16,000 or so on, a short quarter-time and a half-time employee and since this does pattern after the math and science, it's already established and I would hope the body didn't see fit to move it over to the Health Department. It is education and that's where it belongs.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schellpeper, please.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. President and members, I do have some mixed feelings about this amendment but I, as I stated to Senator Wesely earlier, I guess I would go along with it because it is a health issue. It's also an educational issue, but I think the Health Department probably has more information on the nursing and things like that, so I guess I would not have that much problem with this amendment. But it is education, also a health issue, but I guess maybe the health people probably have a little more information on it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, I don't think this is a big issue and I hope the body could make policy choice and get on with the bill. I think that the work that Senator Nelson, Smith and Schellpeper have done with this bill with the previous amendments marks a great step forward and I hope we don't get bogged down with this. As the Chair of the Education Committee, the oversight committee, dealing with the Department of Education, Senator Nelson, I'm sorry to say I'm going to vote with Senator Wesely on this amendment. I kind of questioned when one of the minor concerns I had about the bill was it being with the Department of Education. The Department of Education in our state, with a few limited exceptions and maybe the scholarship program you mentioned is one of them, deals primarily with elementary-secondary types of education. The Department of Health, on the other hand, does a lot in the state dealing with health manpower needs and it would seem like the expertise on the health related program would be better