

nursing facilities. That's the word that we add "or improving". And the reason we need this is because by the federal standards we are already at our capacity for nursing beds in this state, we don't need any more nursing beds in this state. What they need to do is they need to use these funds...by the time they use these funds there would be approximately \$770,000 in these funds which would be in conjunction with \$705,000 of 309 funds, and they would get about 2.7 million of federal matching funds, and then they can use these funds to make improvements at the various nursing homes across the state. So this just allows them to use that. The Governor has recognized that they need to use this fund, and it will be in the budget as we do the budget a little bit later on. This is just some enabling legislation that we need to pass to allow this to happen. With that I would just urge advancement of the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion, please. Senator Schellpeper, Senator Bernard-Stevens, followed by Senators Lindsay, Coordsen, Kristensen, Hall, Landis and Haberman. Senator Schellpeper, please.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: (Laughter.) Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I'd like to ask a question of Senator Baack, if I might.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Baack, would you respond.

SENATOR BAACK: Certainly.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Are there any funds in this bill that will actually fund the nurses to go there, to have an education, or just a place that they can stay?

SENATOR BAACK: This will only be used for the improvement of existing facilities, it will not be used for personnel.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Baack, would you yield to a question?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Baack.