

these physicians and getting them to serve the rural communities. Since 1986, 62 percent of the graduates of this program now live in the rural areas of Nebraska and 90 percent of their graduates have stayed in Nebraska overall. I think that...I think with that I will simply try to answer any questions that people might have. I will just restate that this is definitely a deficit appropriation. It definitely fits into the criterion that we've been using as far as what ought to be added to the budget this year because this is a deficit appropriation to pay for a program that the Medical Center has continued to fund this year with the understanding that we would pass this deficit appropriation to allow those dollars to be funneled to them. So, with that, I will simply try to answer any questions if there are any. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Discussion on the Baack amendment, Senator Warner followed by Senator Schellpeper and Johnson. (Gavel.)

SENATOR WARNER: Yeah, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would just add some additional information as there is no question about the issue at the time that the override was made on this particular portion last year that it was the intent of those who voted for the override to fund the program for the following two years. The bill, as it was introduced, did provide the additional funds that met the commitment that the Medical Center had made to try and comply with the intent of that override for the current fiscal year. But then the budget bill, as it was introduced, only funded the salary for the house officers themselves for the second year. If you adopt the amendment, this is about, it is an...will be an \$888,000 program. Next year it will be a \$944,000 program. There is about 502,000 now without the amendment that is to be added. The original legislation some years ago, as outlined by Senator Baack, was to include additional, in effect, intern positions to be funded through the Medical Center budget and there was a substantial number that have gone through that. It is not only limited to, I guess, to the Lincoln medical. Whether or not the impact of this program is the most effective way to help in providing physicians in various areas of the state, certainly it has had some success in that area. There also seems to be some success related to those provisions by law where there is funding assistance provided to students who agree through a loan in which part of a loan is forgiven if they establish practice and that seems to have an influence as well,