

substantial influence on where students locate. And, of course, the new program that is initiated this year in cooperation with Chadron I think will also add another emphasis to encouraging students from throughout the state to locate perhaps in areas other than the larger metropolitan areas. But, by nature of explanation, these are sizable programs and, by and large, I think they've been pulled back as outlined by Senator Baack because the funds that some of the hospitals were providing prior to this time, they are reluctant to continue to do and perhaps for a variety of reasons but, nevertheless, that is true, that they had withdrawn the support that they had previously given. There is substantial administrative costs that are now being funded through this level of appropriation which exceeds more than just the direct assistance to those doing their interns.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, I also rise to support this appropriation. I've always been a strong supporter of anything that will help rural health care in Nebraska and this is one of the measures that will put rural doctor...put doctors into rural Nebraska. Last year I had two doctors that moved into West Point out of this program and it has really helped that town and it is something that is really needed in rural Nebraska. We do a lot of things in this body for different areas of the state, but this is a program, when you put medical services out there, it's very, very important and I would urge for the adoption of this money. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Johnson, please, followed by Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, I think many of us have had a chance to participate, especially those of us in rural Nebraska, to participate in some of the rural health care caucus groups that have been going around the state. I know I had a chance to be on a panel with some of the folks in the health care industry in Holdrege about a month or so ago and there was 250 people that showed up. I think that showed to me that there is genuine concern about the future of rural medicine, rural health care. And it's also very clear to me that, for the most part, trying to attract specialists to rural hospitals are going to be very difficult. But what you need to, hopefully, build off of is, one, a young person's loyalty to an