

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: ...are already being paid and we're going to continue to pay that. As Senator Warner pointed out, we're paying 500 and some thousand dollars of state General Funds for those officers, for those residents to practice already. Whether we want to pick up the administration costs, I think is a step too far. I don't think we need to do that. I do understand the issue. I understand it's being caught up as a physicians for rural Nebraska. I don't see it as that. I see it as a contribution level from other hospitals who, by the way, do benefit quite a bit by having these residents and these interns practice and they do a lot of health care provisions in these hospitals, so there is a give and take situation. There is benefits for both. I don't think...it's going beyond what I think is reasonable to suggest that the state pick up all these funds so I will not be supporting the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Is there further discussion on the amendment? Senator Baack, would you care to make a closing statement?

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I understand Senator Hannibal's position and coming from Omaha I'm certain that he doesn't understand what it's like to get doctors in rural areas. I come from a community that has been looking for a doctor for a number of years. It's a very, very difficult thing to do, and I think that the program that the University Medical Center is going to start working with Chadron is going to help. And I think one of the things that forced them to do that and brought that to their attention, how important that was to do that, was what we did last year on the override because I sat down with Chancellor Andrews and we talked about these things as to how difficult it is to get physicians to rural areas. Coming from Lincoln and Omaha I know that's no problem. That's easy to do to get physicians to come to Lincoln and Omaha, it's actually quite easy in Scottsbluff to get physicians to come there. But when you talk to a physician and ask them to come to Kimball, it's very, very difficult to get them to do that and I think that this kind of a program needs to be continued because I think that they emphasize that idea of coming to rural Nebraska, serving rural Nebraska and making that the place where you're going to practice. And I think that this is a very, very good commitment of funds for the Legislature to do that. I agree with Senator Hannibal and possibly with Senator Warner on that we do need to probably look at this issue