

forward that need to be addressed. But the rural health manpower shortage is one beyond just physicians. It is one that encompasses many rural health professions. And the one missing link in this legislation that we'll need to continue to work on is how we address those other professions. And so what I'm saying is this bill goes a long way to solving some of these problems, and resolving them in a long-term fashion, but that we will need to come back and address in other professions, how we meet their needs as well. But I want to, again, commend the sponsors of the legislation. I think that it's a good bill and would ask your support for it.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. I'll now recognize Senator Dierks, followed by Senator Moore and Senator Rogers. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Madam President and members of the body, I, of course, am on the bill and I'm very excited about it because we've had a tremendous amount of difficulties in rural Nebraska, in my area especially we've seen the shortage of medical doctors and other medical personnel as well. For that reason, Senator Schellpeper and I have both been involved with this issue, not only this one, but with nursing shortages. This...You know, I had a community last year that people had sent me over 250 letters because of the loss of their doctor. And they...I don't know if people understand the meaning of that, when you live in an area that is under served by medicine and people, especially elderly people, become almost frantic because they wonder whose going to take care of them, and where they'll go for their care. In this particular case, why, the town of Atkinson lost their physician and they were just in very dire straits. This type of legislation is the type that will help us get physicians back into rural Nebraska. And I think it's extremely important, and I think that I'd just like to ask you all to support this legislation. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Madam President. If Senator Schellpeper would yield to a couple of questions. To begin with, obviously, I want to appreciate the ability to support this bill without any direct fiscal impact. But the one question I have, Senator Schellpeper, is will this bill serve more people than our present system?