

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: That's right.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. I'll now recognize Senator Wesely, followed by Senator Schimek.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Madam President, members, the issue raised by Senator Moore I'd like to follow up on a little bit. He makes a good point here. And one of the things that I think we're starting to move toward in this legislation and also in other activity involving the University of Nebraska Medical Center is trying to link up and identify individuals, early on, who have the interest and potential to be health care providers, and try and identify that talent and bring it through our education system and then back into our rural areas. That rural health initiative network that is set up by the medical center, and that is now in place. Chadron has moved forward, I believe Wayne has moved forward, and there are efforts to expand that. Also I had a bill, LB 690, it's still held in committee, that would take that another step forward, to try and further link up, through a hub network, the residency training that would be provided to our medical center students. So what we're trying to do is, early on, identify rural Nebraska youth who would like to be health professionals, try and work them through the system that we have, through our college system and then on into the University Medical Center, and then we find that when you bring somebody from a rural area they are much more likely to return back to that rural area. So it enhances further the intent of what Senator Schellpeper is trying to do. And so this bill compliments and supplements the University of Nebraska initiative, and would not, I think, duplicate or, I think, run counter to that. I'm very excited about what the University of Nebraska is doing. The other legislation that is still in committee, likewise follows along this same line. And I think we're all moving in unison, in parallel paths, trying to find ways in which to bring greater numbers of health professionals for our rural areas of the state. So, again, I think Senator Moore raised a good question. I think that the bill answers the question appropriately, and that there are other programs that this blends in and meshes with that will compliment each other. And, again, I'd encourage the support for the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Schimek.