

But I remember we didn't think we needed the nurses. Now we can't get enough nurses, and Senator Nelson knows about that, we can't...we don't have enough programs out there to churn out the nurses we need in this state. Yet there was a time, not that long ago, that people talked about we didn't need the Lincoln nursing program, shut it down. Now not only do we have the Lincoln nursing program, we added one out at Scottsbluff, and we're still short of having the nurses we need. So it's this Legislature that's a check and balance in this process. And the decision, obviously, is one that needs to be made by the department. And I can't fault that this item is the one being looked at for cutting out. If I felt differently, I'd be up here arguing to put the money back in and keeping it open without any hesitation. What I'm saying is if there are reasons to shut those down, let's state those reasons, let's adhere and meet those reasons,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...and then, if we need to proceed, then I guess that's the decision that's got to be made. But I don't see where we're wrong in suggesting that we save money from the closure, that the local schools are able to handle these children, that the building is utilized by the school district that's going to have to take up the slack with these children, and that the children don't end up being placed out-of-state. I think those are reasonable conditions. I'd ask your support for the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. The next speaker is Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, it's late in the day. It's four forty-one, and most of us are looking forward, I think, to an adjournment. And there's a torpor in the air which keeps us from listening attentively to the debate. But in my 13 years, this a moment that I don't recall having a precedent for, the state closing a facility in a senator's district and the senator not standing up and saying, you can't close the plant. Every time I've been here, for 13 years, that's what happens. The senator doesn't stand up and say, look, you know, prove up. The senator stands up and says, not in my backyard, not in my district, don't close this facility, and tries to block it. Now, it's the kind of afternoon that doesn't let you recognize this for the