

but I think a lot of times the urban people do not realize the health care that we have in rural Nebraska. Rural Nebraska does not have paid health care that is on call 24 hours a day. We need to have people that will volunteer, that are willing to go out there and to just take the time out of their own personal life to go out to help the people with their health care, to run our ambulances and our EMTs in Nebraska. And I just...I think that we need to take a look at...things are much different in rural Nebraska than they are in our large cities, and I don't think that it's...you know, any care is better than none at all. Now I realize we need to have good health care. We shouldn't have to put up for something that is unsafe, but the people that are out there are very dedicated. They are not people that are going to willingly do something to your health. They are out there trying to do the best that they possibly can and we need to do everything that we can to help them. When you are an hour, hour and a half away from a hospital, you need to have somebody out there that will come to help you. We have a lot of areas in Nebraska that are that way. It is just because we don't have any doctors in our rural areas, we don't have any hospitals in our rural areas, so we have to try to get the EMT to come in to take the best care we can get until we can get to a hospital. So, once again, I think this bill is really needed for rural Nebraska, because even though it isn't like we would like to see, it is so much better than what we have now, and it is so much better than nothing because health care is very important to rural Nebraska. But they can have the best of all worlds, you can't keep somebody on duty out there 24 hours a day when there is nobody to really be there that they can go to. They may be called out once every two weeks. There is not enough people in our rural towns. So we need to let them have at least have a little leeway so they can do some things to try to save some people's lives. With that, I really urge you to support the committee amendments and the bill. It is very important for health care in rural Nebraska. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Senator Schellpeper, I am going to vote for the amendments and for the bill, okay. We are together. Thank you. I happen to have a very familiarity with the whole question of emergency responding to accidents for various reasons. My brother was a medic in Korea, and from that very time, he has worked all his life in