

initiative we had prior to that where we were helping medical students go into rural areas and help pay for their education and all that? And the RHEN program, we also have out there which deals with trying to help students get into educa...into medical schools and having doctors out in the rural areas getting the education out there, where does this fit in? Is this just another of those same programs? And then I'll have further questions, depends on how you respond.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, the issue is on that, as I recall, and as you know our fiscal analyst isn't here today, but on the...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: If you would rather wait for later, that's...I understand.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I'll tell you what my memory says is that there is a declining need for...in this area for in the Nurse Incentive Act, that there is not a shortage of nurses per se across the state and that there is declining use of this. And so it was felt that we didn't necessarily need to fund this. Now I need to probably look that up for more accuracy.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yeah, I think so because you're looking at an increased funding on this one,...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...not a decrease, it's an increased funding...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I thought you were talking about the next one, the nursing incentive.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: No, the one...I'm on the one above that, Roger, the Medical Student Assistant Program. That's the one where I wanted to know how it dealt combined with RHEN and the Rural Initiative that we have out there.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: What's your question on that?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: How does the Medical Student Assistant Program, what does that do that we're not already doing with the Rural Initiative that I think Senator Dierks and Schellpeper passed a couple years ago and the RHEN program we have out there through the University of Nebraska Medical School. How does