

what we all aim to achieve.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Madam President, first of all I'd like to express my appreciation to the work Senator Withem and Senator Wesely have provided on trying to bring this bill to the Legislature in a form that is acceptable to a majority of us. And I know that was not an easy task. I don't quite know where I particularly fall on the amendment that's before us, but have a couple of questions if Senator Wesely, Senator Withem could respond. First of all, Senator Wesely, one of the benefits that has been proposed to be gained by this legislation is a greater access in the rural, in the rural areas. There... I think you mentioned about a hundred nurse practitioners now. Do you know how many of those are currently practicing in what would be considered a rural area?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: I can try and find that for you, but I don't know immediately where the distribution of that is.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Do you think a majority of them are located in the rural area now?

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah, evidently a majority are rural.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: I'd be interested in those, those numbers if you have access to them. If not I'll, I could try to get them.

SENATOR WESELY: I'll have a copy for you, I've got one right here.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay, great. The second thing that has always concerned me through the course of the past years we've looked at this is the, the issue of diagnosis training that they receive under this. And someone provided me with a copy of the master's program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center for family nurse practitioners with an outline of the courses. And it appears there's maybe about 12 hours, and if I'm not correct I'd appreciate if somebody could address this, that maybe addresses in some way or another diagnosis. But it doesn't appear to me to be a heavy emphasis in the area of