

don't follow the bill then I think we need to take a second look at the bill. Do you agree with that?

SENATOR DIERKS: Yeah, I'd like to expand on that a little bit, Senator Schellpeper. I don't believe that the funds have all been used, I think there's some that have not been, and so some of those funds are available now, or were last year. The other thing is I think this allows the Department of Health to be a little more selective in where these funds go because you'll be able to get out into the very rural reaches of a district if you're a little more selective.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Um-hum. I, like I said, I don't have a problem including the students, the only problem is if the funding doesn't follow. And I think we need to visit with the administration and make sure that the funding will follow and that they won't be vetoed. So with that, I'll support the committee amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you. Senator Wesely, to close on the...or Senator Dierks to close on the committee amendments. Closing is waived. The question before the body is, shall the committee amendments be adopted? All of those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Dierks, to open on the bill.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. LB 373, we've talked, I think, pretty well about the issue, maybe around it a little bit. But this would expand the student loan repayment program under the Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentives Act. And this program currently is available to physician assistants, student nurse practitioners, master level mental health students, and clinical psychology students. With this legislation we would expand that to dental students, pharmacy students, physical and occupational therapy students. As with the students currently included in the program, students in these fields would qualify for up to \$5,000 in loan repayments per year of full-time practice in a designated health profession shortage area. The total limit for