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LB 559

can be saved and the access that rural areas are going to have to specialized medicine. I look at a recruiting...the recruiting situation that most rural hospitals are in trying to...to find rural family practice physicians to come and practice in their communities. Many of them don't like to come to rural communities because they don't have access to specialists and the type of communication that they need to effectively practice medicine, and this is going to enable them to do this. I, once again, I want to urge your adoption of the amendment, the committee amendments, and LB 559. I think this is a wonderful piece of legislation for both rural and urban Nebraska.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Jones, on the amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. President and members of the body, I wanted to also stand in strong support of this. Callaway is in my district and Good Samaritan and I seen the...is on TV here, I don't know how long ago it was, with the education TV that they showed an example of just how they did it, and I can see that'd be an advantage clear across the whole western part of the state, 'cause a lot of people come to Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney and that they got the connection so they can do it. And Senator Byars already made one comment that I was really interested in too, and we're having trouble getting rural doctors out because, as a general practitioner, well, they just don't know what all might come up out there and they feel like they're kind of lost without a specialist, and this way they can have a specialist that would help them on any case that they want. And a lot of times the roads are not so they can travel to Kearney and a lot of times they have to cancel appointments, and this way they can go ahead and continue to make the appointment, because all they have to do is just get into their local doctor there in Callaway or Valentine or whatever town it might be. So I stand in strong support of this and I commend Senator Kristensen and Health Committee both for getting it out on the floor so we can start on something like this. Thank you.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Thompson, on the amendment to the amendment.