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and speech pathologists engage in a nine-month supervised clinical fellowship. Currently in Nebraska, they are allowed to practice in any supervised setting but are not eligible for licensure by the Nebraska State Licensing Board during their clinical fellowship year. Therefore, Medicaid does not recognize these individuals as providers and will not provide reimbursement for their services. Has a negative impact on most of the graduate programs, actually, all of the graduate programs in the state because, while the graduates of the institutions are able to work in nonmedical settings, such as school systems, opportunities in clinical and medical settings are restricted because employers do not want to have on board or hire individuals who have restrictions on their practice. In most states, a provisional license, which is a one-year license, is available to new graduates in speech language pathology and audiology. Thus, we are losing graduates from our own state university programs to other states. It also makes it difficult for us to recruit speech pathologists and audiologists to serve the patients in Nebraska. It is important to note that the passage of this legislation will not increase costs for the state of Nebraska. It is estimated that the state would make a one-time expenditure of approximately \$1,200 in FY 2000-2001 to establish rules and regulations. This expenditure will be offset by revenue of at least \$1,050 annually for license fees. If audiologists and speech pathologists cannot engage in unrestricted practice during their fellowship year, employers will simply elect to hire post-clinical fellowship clinicians, and recent graduates in need of a clinical fellowship will not be considered. And I think it's very important to remember that we need audiologists and speech pathologists that can serve a population that has their medical care reimbursed by Medicaid. This is...these are folks who meet the poverty guidelines and if we do not have enough people who can provide the services here then we lessen the amount of services that are available to the poor and the working poor in the state, and I would ask your support of this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kiel. Senator Jensen, you're recognized. I know it's hard not to be quiet, but, Senators, if you could. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes, I...I don't know how to say this, again,