## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

May 20, 2005 LB 146

have been contacted by schools of nursing and have been to other educational facilities, there are students there that are waiting to go into schools of nursing. They're on hold. It's like planes coming into an airport. They're on hold. There are not enough instructors there for them to be admitted to a school of nursing, and this is...this is sad because we need these young men and young women. But if there aren't enough instructors, they cannot be trained and go into the nursing field. The age of nurses, we are getting older. Well, each one of us are, but young, fresh nurses being mentored by adult nurses is very beneficial. I have talked to a number of young women, young men, who are getting ready to finish school and they said, hey, I would love to go into instruction and into faculty because then I would have my weekends free, I'd have my evenings free, and when I marry and have children I would be able to spend quality time with my family. Nursing instructors do not make as much money as floor nurses do or people working in specialties. They...the cost of their salary is much less than if they were into a specialty. An instructor needs to be somebody who wants to make a better use of their time, spend time with their family, or has a strong desire to be an instructor. This may be really hard for people to understand that they would give up \$60,000, \$70,000 out there and come back to a school of nursing for \$30,000 or \$35,000, but it is a strong desire to grow nurses. It makes me think of teachers. You know, they don't make the highest salary, but they have a strong desire to work with our children in public education. urge you to support this legislation. So we pass the bill this year. We have enough for one student. Then I am going to have to talk to colleges and see if perhaps they will match tuition. I'm going to have to be real creative. I'm going to have to look at federal programs, how we can get monies. I would like to get \$100,000 in here, and so we're going to have to work to find money. This is not your job. Your job is to help me pass this piece of legislation, and then the real work begins on finding the funding for this loan forgiveness. And I look forward to your questions. Are there questions? Mr. President, I open it up to questions.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Price. On with discussion. Senator Schimek, followed by Senators Johnson,