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LB 146

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Price, yours is the last light. You may either speak or close on your amendment.

SENATOR PRICE: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Are you closing?

SENATOR PRICE: How much time do I get on closing, compared to just speaking?

SENATOR CUDABACK: You get 5 minutes each.

SENATOR PRICE: Well, sir, I will close. I will use this as my closing.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You're recognized to close.

SENATOR PRICE: A question here about faculty members, the ratio in schools of nursing, there are about ten students per faculty member. So if nationwide we're short 110,000 nurses, we would need 11,000 new teachers or faculty for schools of nurses nationwide. In Nebraska, according to this World-Herald article, it says currently there are 450 students on waiting lists for admission to nursing schools in Nebraska, the Center for Nursing reported. Do the math. We need 45 new instructors here in Nebraska. As these students remain on these waiting lists at community colleges or other colleges, they wait, they wait, they wait, so sometimes they enter other medical professions, which they're needed as members of the team, but they really wanted to be nurses. And so we're losing them then from the nursing field but yet the health team is acquiring them in other ways. We will have more nurses. The main thing is if...when this...we will have more nurses when this is passed. I think people, schools of nursing, colleges are watching to see this legislation be successful in its passage. Then I won't be the only one talking about raising funds to underwrite this loan forgiveness plan. With the success of the passage of LB 146, then there will be much more interest. We will have to continue to look for funding, and we will welcome any contributions