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March 13, 2006 LB 962

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Schimek, members of the Legislature, this is an amendment that I've discussed with Senator Price, and it actually does nothing at all adverse to her bill, but merely drops out the paragraph that has to do with funding. She doesn't need that anymore because she'll have an A bill forthcoming. So it just kind of cleans up the bill a little bit. And I would yield my time to Senator Price, if she wants to comment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Price.

SENATOR PRICE: I thank Senator Beutler for bringing this to attention and I would support his amendment and I encourage you to support it also. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senators Price and Beutler. Senator Combs, you are recognized to speak.

SENATOR COMBS: Thank you, Madam President. Members of the body, I rise in support of LB 962. And not only do we need more nursing educators. We were speaking to a group of nurse practitioners the other day. This is the pool of people who train the nurse practitioners--an extremely important group of people. As we look into the status of rural healthcare right now, we are looking at more practices engaging the assistance of not only nurse practitioners but also physician assistants, and many people that are seeing a nurse practitioner in a medical practice many times ask for that practitioner over the doctor. And there is a lot of care that the practitioners are giving that we do not have providers for in the rural area. So this not only meets the need for more teachers in the system, but actually more people prepared at the level that they can also serve as advanced practice nurse practitioners. So I notice that Senator Chambers does have an amendment that I say, you go, guy. We are in agreement today on that, so...and that is yet to come. But we cannot put too much money in education of nurses in view of the demographics that Nebraska population, particularly west of Lincoln, are moving toward, which do not support opening of new medical practices. I think as we look at how the demographics are going to be evolving over the next