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

March 13, 2006 LB 962

hard in trying to make that a reality but was unable to do so. And what disgusts me about that is not her diligent work, I think she did work very hard at it, but the fact that the players in the health industry who stand most to benefit by employing these additional nurses refuse to participate. To me, that's inexcusable. I think that if this program is needed then those folks should be willing to step up and contribute the money so that it could be done. Now, I'll also mention my money so that it could be done. understanding, which may be incorrect, is that to a large extent this is talking about providing some funding for a person who is probably pretty well paid right now, and if they...in order to...they may, in fact, have to take a cut in pay in order to go from a nursing position to one where there's...they're training nurses. Well, there's a couple of ways to address that and one of them is for more to be paid, in the way of salary, to those people who are in those faculty training positions. That's a much more viable way to approach the issue, if there is one, than this particular program. I think that, in a sense, you think of a loan forgiveness program to help someone who is financially strapped. As I understand this program, that's not what we're talking about here. We're talking about someone that is making perhaps a good salary, which I have absolutely no objection to, but they...you're trying to lure them into a position where they would be training people who, like themselves, would be making this additional money, and right now the salary structure isn't such that they have incentive to do that. That's a salary structure issue; that's not a loan forgiveness issue. So for that reason, I will support Senator Beutler's amendment, but I can't support the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. The next speaker is Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I had put up an amendment, which will go away with the adoption of Senator Beutler's amendment. The reason I offered it--which would have said, by the way, we would strike \$150,000, put \$500,000--it would be to signal my view that money is needed to supply society with more people trained in this medical art. However, there are institutions which would benefit from having people trained who could kick in some money, but they're not