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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 953, 962

effective if the maximums were increased. And it's been a very effective tool to recruit and retain rural healthcare providers in Nebraska. LB 953 increases the amount that may be paid annually for student loan repayments under the act. The bill increases from \$10,000 to \$20,000 the maximum annual loan repayment for physicians, dentists, and psychologists; and increases from \$5,000 to \$10,000 the maximum annual amount for physician assistants, advance practice nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and mental health practitioners. I was contacted recently by Dr. Don Frye, Chairman of the Rural Health Advisory Commission, and the commission had requested that the provisions of LB 953 be enacted into law without any additional appropriations for the program. When it came through our committee there was additional appropriations and we really felt that that could not...that certainly my seatmate behind me would not go for that, and so we had not advanced the bill. But now, moving it forward without increasing the appropriations I think is a very good way to go. The commission believes that the enhanced payback authority, even if fewer applicants are served under the program, will still make the program much more effective and a very effective tool in the long run. I would just ask for the adoption of the amendment, and I would stress that I'm not asking for any additional appropriations to accompany this change. I thank Senator Price. And with that, I would thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. You've heard the opening on AM2893. Open for discussion. Senator Jensen, there are no lights on. Senator Jensen waives closing. Question before the body is, shall AM2893 be adopted to LB 962? All in favor vote aye; opposed, nay. Voting on adoption of the Jensen amendment, AM2893. Have you all voted on the issue who care to? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Jensen's amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The Jensen amendment has been adopted.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.