

200 percent of the loan principle a heavy penalty and if they end up not practicing in the particular discipline they're supposed to, they have to repay 300 percent of their loan principle. I mean it is a hell of a penalty to not follow through with the intent. I mean this clearly is going to end up having people that go through this program in the areas of the state we need help and in the professions in health care that we need help in. So it just seems to me that the amendment isn't drafted to parallel what we're looking for in the original bill and needs a lot of work. So I would really hope rather than having to vote against the amendment that we look at this later on Select File after there is more time and attention been paid to the issue. So with that I would oppose the amendment as it's currently drafted.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I rise in support of the amendment by Senator Lynch and commend him for bringing it to the body. We have a significant problem in rural health obviously that we're all aware of and we have two major institutions in the State of Nebraska that provide health care professionals. The more cooperative effort, the better, between those two facilities and those two institutions to provide health care should be encouraged, the more the better. I understand Senator Wesely's concern about the drafting of the amendment and what I would recommend at this point is that we go ahead and attach the amendment and with the understanding that we are going to work on the language between now and Select File so that we can conform that, this amendment and this portion of the bill to the overall intent of LB 505. Again, bringing the health care professionals who have graduated from private institutions into the...in a more real way and a more aggressive way into providing rural health to our state, it should be encouraged and in any way possible that we can do under the parameters of our budget. So I think Senator Lynch has brought us a good concept, an excellent concept that may possibly be better placed on another bill, Senator Schellpeper, I don't know, but I think it's something that is so crucial to the future of our state that we encourage both, at least in Omaha, Creighton University and UNMC and then the other private institutions that provide education health care services that those institutions be properly motivated to educate health care professionals for the rural areas that we should in any chance we get not discourage this kind of activity but encourage it and