

are large I guess compared to my small towns, but it does get them to come back to these rural areas because it seems like once they have seen the city lights they don't want to go back to rural Nebraska, so we need to keep them to go back to the rural areas where they have family and where we really need individuals to take care of our elderly and sick patients at this time. But it's a program, it's different than LB 400 that we had three years ago, that was a loan forgiveness. This is a loan payback that you have to pay it back. It is not a forgiveness. I think that Senator Lynch get back to that amendment. It's something that we need to take a look at and it's very important that we do that also, but we need to I guess look at that in a different light with, like I said, with the other bill and I think the two bills together will really help health care in this state because we need more people to go back to our areas that are very deficient not only in just rural areas, but also into north Omaha and other areas where we have a shortage of health care people at this time. I'd be glad to answer any questions about the bill but I think it has been discussed very thoroughly with the amendment and the committee amendments are the bill now so I'll be glad to answer any questions on the actual bill.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Bromm.

**SENATOR BROMM:** Mr. Speaker, I just rise briefly to support the bill. I thank Senator Schellpeper for his work in the area. In our area we very much have experienced and are experiencing the shortage that he speaks of and I think this will be nothing but good as far as encouraging people to return and practice in the rural areas. I also commend Senator Lynch for his effort and I would also support looking further at the type of thing Senator Lynch is interested in doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Wesely.

**SENATOR WESELY:** Mr. Speaker, member, I, too, rise in support of the bill. I simply want to point out, I know Senator Schellpeper and Senator Dierks and others have long worked on the problem of bringing adequate personnel to the rural areas of the state to meet the medical needs of our rural areas. I think the problem is only going to get worse as we look down the road and see the problem we have with the population losses in our smaller towns and our rural areas as they move toward the city, the population base shrinks every so slightly but ever so