

Nebraska. Think about your committees...your communities who either have an immediate choice of physicians or will have a choice in the future. Think about your constituents who are forced to wait long periods of time for a doctor's appointment or must travel long distances to see a doctor. Consider our state and national goals of improving the delivery of primary health care and how national officials are pointing to the shortage of primary care physicians as a major barrier that we must overcome. With these factors in mind, I hope you will support LB 152. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Mr. Clerk, amendments on the desk.

CLERK: The first amendment, Mr. President, Senator Dierks, AM1311. (See page 1394 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR HALL: Senator Dierks, on the amendment.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. This amendment just clarifies the bill to indicate exactly which residents will be funded under this bill, and when the funding will begin. The A bill will likewise be amended to reflect this change. With this amendment we begin funding family practice residents who begin training in qualifying institutions on or after January 1, '93. So the family practice residents currently training at Creighton and Clarkson will not be funded, but those who enter the program this summer and each year thereafter will be funded. So in fiscal year '93-94, we will be funding one residency class. We project this to include four residents at Clarkson and three at Creighton. The cost to the state is \$150,000, \$150,500. In 1994-95, we will two classes which will include five residents at Clarkson and three at Creighton. The cost is \$322,500. Each year thereafter we will fund three classes at each qualifying institution, so there is a program growth up to three classes, but no more than that because that's the total length of training. After three years, there will also be some incentive funds issued, but, remember, these are dependent upon the institutions' ability to place their graduates in Nebraska, and especially in rural Nebraska. I know in these tight budget times, one of our utmost considerations is program growth, and I want to be very forthright with everyone in saying this program will grow, but the growth is limited and it is dependent on the success of the program producing practicing family practice physicians for