

serve, and the other peoples in outstate Nebraska. We all know that the urban areas have enough doctors and, perhaps, maybe too many doctors, but that we don't...there still aren't that many primary care physicians who are serving in the areas because there hasn't been as much of a trend to try to train doctors for that field. We think that this program will encourage the medical centers to put more people in the primary care area where certainly there is a lack of doctors...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...throughout the entire state. With that, I would certainly encourage you to advance this bill and consider its passage to become a bill so that we can help provide these services in outlying Nebraska that is desperately in need. Thank you very much.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Dierks, on the advancement.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Only very briefly, to remind you that I wanted to be up front with you when we talked about the funding and the amount of dollars it could take. When I talked about 6 or 7 hundred thousand dollars, that was seven or eight years in the future, but I just wanted you to be aware of the possibilities. I don't think it will ever come to quite that much, but I just want to be fair with you at the outset. I'd like to also explain to you that the funding of this piece of legislation will take place through the Department of Health and not the Medical Center. So I would urge, too, that you support the legislation and help advance it to Select File. I'd also like to mention that I am very willing to work with Senator Wesely with his concerns about incentives for rural practitioners that are there with other programs, so I am very willing to do that. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Madam President and members, again, I appreciate both Senator Vrtiska's and Senator Dierks' comments and again they have been long committed to improving rural health, and I respect and admire their expertise on this. And what I am addressing is not so much the bill as it is the overall situation currently, because as I looked at the bill and looked at what we were doing in other residencies, I discovered