

Nebraska. So the bottom line of what I'm saying is, and I'll finish up with some of these comments, is that a lot of my concerns have been addressed.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR WESELY: And with (inaudible) work on this I think we can continue to make sure this bill and other current programs meet the goals that we all share.

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

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I just want to make clear as this is my priority bill, and obviously the purpose that I had in mind was certainly to try to attract young physicians to come into family practice in the rural areas. We know without a question that there is a tremendous shortage of family practice physicians in rural areas and this is hopefully one way we can do it. I refer to the handout that Senator Wesely handed out, and I recognize that the, as he indicated, the number of physicians going into family practice from Creighton has not been all that good. But you have to remember that there is no incentive as there was at the University Medical Center to indicate help for these doctors as they went into practice. I just want to read a couple of three lines out of a letter that I got from the Johnson County Hospital where two of the doctors who were serving in Johnson County in a clinic and had built a new clinic there chose to leave. And I want to talk just a little bit...minute about why they're leaving and make you understand why the rural areas are having this difficulty. And it really boils down to the line in here that says I can't help but believe there's a hidden agenda here. These physicians are earning a very respectable salary in the six figures. The break up occurred when the emergency room service for the Lincoln, Nebraska, hospital hired physician number one at a salary of over two times the current earnings. This tells you that what's happening in trying to talk about where doctors go when they are in rural setting and somebody from the city, I don't care if it's out of state or away, when somebody comes in and attracts them to come to a setting where they have half the workload and earn twice the money, of course, it's a good incentive to leave. What we're trying to do with this particular bill that I'm carrying for Senator Dierks is to make some incentive for these young doctors to go into practice in rural areas and hopefully stay there. And I have to say that