

these figures that were handed out also don't reflect how many of these doctors who left...who were in the program at the university whether they have in fact remained in the rural practice or whether they just went there and fulfilled their obligation and then left. This is a real difficult issue for us out there in the rural areas to continue to attract and to keep family practitioners when they're offered such lucrative positions in the practice in the city. So what we're suggesting is that there be more of an incentive in trying to lead these young people to believe that there is some value in the lifestyle that they are able to lead living out in the rural areas. Secondly, I guess you'd have to understand that we are losing doctors at a greater rate than we are training them at the present. And certainly whatever share of those that we can attract into the rural areas is not...nobody knows at this point. But if we don't do something, eventually they're not going to...there won't be any doctors left out in the rural areas of Nebraska. At the present time in my particular area, the towns of Auburn, Humboldt, Pawnee City, and Tecumseh all have need for doctors. There were three doctors in Tecumseh and with two of them leaving as of a couple of days ago, they're down to one doctor for an area that certainly needs and has been able to support, as I indicated earlier...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...by the amount of money that they were able to...there are approximately 4,600 residents in Johnson County, there are over 3,000 in Pawnee County, and you're talking about 3 doctors serving that area. Humboldt has one doctor so if you look clear across the state, the same issue is prevalent among the rural areas. So all we're asking is for you to assist us in trying to train more of these doctors and to attract them into the rural setting where we can get some of those services that are so badly needed out there. So with that I thank you very much.

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

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. To follow up again with some of the concerns, I thought Senator Vrtiska did a nice job of summarizing. I share the concern that he's got. We have got a serious problem with our graduates, number one, keeping them in Nebraska, that's very important; number two, getting them into family practice versus specialties where we really have got to