

to specifics and at that point you've got to stand by your decisions, and I know members of this body have supported general cuts and when those specifics came out, whether it be eliminating the program in Curtis or whether it be something down in Fairbury or whether it be something else, when the specifics came up and the people rose up in opposition, we reacted to that. Well, there is going to be a lot of specifics in these cuts, and I think if you're going to support them, you'd better be ready to live with the consequences and the specific programs that will be eliminated, and in order for you to live with them, you ought to know now exactly what you're going to face...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...with these cuts and programs. And so this is the first of many battles, this nursing program in Scottsbluff, and, Senator Chambers, I appreciate you raising this issue as well because it does raise a value question, existing program versus new program; nursing program versus indigent care or other care for people that can't get health care in other areas. What kind of dollars are we going to end up eventually spending out in Scottsbluff? And ultimately, I think you've got to realize that this program does not merit versus other programs the new monies and the new start up. At the same time, if we could keep those programs and establish that base of services that are now there, this would be an excellent add-on and ought to be done at some point in this state, maybe even this year, and I would support it with the understanding that some of these other budget cut areas are dealt with in a positive fashion so they aren't eliminated while we start a new program and the irony of that in the public's eye I think would be very, very bad.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Goodrich, then Senator Nelson.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in support of the committee's action in not cutting the Scottsbluff Nursing Program and I did it for several reasons. The first is that some of this money has already been spent. Besides that, they are also having to recruit faculty for that program and it takes time to do that. Consequently, we left this money in for that...that was one of the reasons we left this money in. Number two would be, for example, that the economic times for rural Nebraska are such that if we do not have this program in Scottsbluff's area, the Panhandle of Nebraska will be hard put