

SENATOR SCHMIT: But does that have any statutory impact?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: I suppose the University could make almost any decision they chose, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: In other words, even though we vote and specifically say that this program should be sustained, the University may, in fact, terminate it? Is that not correct?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: I suppose that could be a decision that would ultimately result. I have a hard time believing that would be the case. I think...

SENATOR SCHMIT: I don't.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: I think the intent of the committee is rather clear here and I think, if you don't mind me using a second of your time to make a point about something Senator Johnson said, it is in fact true that we do have good number of nursing schools in the state. Unfortunately, the nearest professional school to our end of the state is 300 miles away, so the impact of this program is really everything west of Kearney and I'd like to stress this is not a Panhandle issue. And I just can't believe that the Regents would ignore better than half the state in that kind of decision. I think the Regents are going to be faced with some mighty tough decisions, but I think they would honor the intent of the Legislature here.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Okay, if I may use the rest of my time, I just want to point out that the University can still do exactly what they want. Our specific language does not mandate that as far as I am concerned. I do not believe that we can tell them what to do. I supported the program. I believe it is a meritorious program. I concur with what has been said here earlier. I want to point out what Senator Chambers said. The Mexican-American Commission in western Nebraska, most of the people affected by the termination of that situation reside in Scottsbluff. \$24,000, we said, nuts, get on your bicycle and head for Lincoln if you want some assistance. Northeast Nebraska where most of the Indian people are at, 17,000. In the case of the women, most of those women's programs are for low income disadvantaged individuals, that 66,000. I would suggest that Senator Vickers might say, to quote my friend Senator DeCamp, bye-bye to the school at Curtis because I have a strong hunch that we're going to see the termination of the school at Curtis if we take this