

them. And physicians, yeah, I think we might have a problem. We have too many of those perhaps. But at the same time, nursing, we are undersupplied and those programs that Senator Johnson talked about are not adequately meeting the need. So to justify eliminating a currently existing program that has a waiting list larger than the Omaha program, that is a program very well supported by those individuals that utilize it, and there is some people here today. And last night I was quietly at home taking care of my little daughter, trying to watch TV, when I got calls about every five minutes asking me to support this program. I certainly was going to support it anyway but I had a long evening as a result of that. I can tell you there is a lot of support for this program. The Regents looked at cutting it. They found people came down by the droves in support of it, not only just in Lincoln but elsewhere, and they backed off. They didn't cut the program. They found some merit to it. I would ask you to consider this option, Senator Scofield. It seems to me that we ought to be perhaps neutral on the situation, perhaps not going with your proposal to eliminate Lincoln and move it out to Scottsbluff, but, in fact, give the Regents the option, and I think under the current status of the bill they do with the cuts that they have to maintain both or to eliminate both or to keep one or the other, and I think maybe the best way to handle it is to allow the Regents in their situation. I think right now in the middle of this special session to deal with a very specific item such as this is going to be very, very difficult. I think all of you, as you sit around, do you know the figures on nursing needs, do you know the situation in terms of how many students go into these different programs, what the cost is for those students, what the benefit is from having these programs in certain areas? I don't think we are equipped at this point to make that decision. So I am asking that we maintain a neutral attitude, if we do go ahead with these cuts, and allow the Regents to make a determination of what best serves the needs of Nebraska in terms of these programs. So, Senator Scofield, I would suggest we take that attitude rather than trying at this time to eliminate the one and transfer it when I don't think we are very certain about the situation. In fact, I would rather see both of those programs rather than eliminating them both or eliminating one or the other.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator Harris, please.

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to point out as a Lincoln Senator that I did support