

# Press Corps

November 17, 2023

## Make Doctors Work



### Medical Loan Repayment

This bill's purpose is to incentivise doctors to work in rural hospitals. They are using Medical Loan repayment as one of the incentives, a scholarship of 200,000 dollars, which makes the yearly maximum 25,000 dollars.

### Opponency-

The proponent says that the issue of medical student debt is not the issue at hand, the issue is how underfunded the rural hospitals are. Instead of focusing the money from the state on the individual doctors, the state should focus on keeping those rural hospitals funded so that they can stay open. Representative Emily Rosenberg says, "In my opinion, a lot of doctors don't want to move to rural towns because of job safety. The hospitals are always on the brink of bankruptcy, if we moved funding from the state to these rural hospitals I think we would find a lot more Doctors would move with this."

### Proponency-

The opposition mentions that other states already have this bill. They are offering students from the state of Oklahoma this scholarship if they come to work in a different state. Oklahoma is losing out of valuable medical students because they are not up to date with the surrounding states.

The opposition also restates several times that this bill is a Scholarship, not a contract. This bill does not address funding to the rural hospitals, it is solely addressing scholarships for medical students to help pay off the debt.

**This Bill Passes with 23 yes and 21 no**

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## **Amendments**

Hostile #1: In Section 2, subsection 6, strike “and shall be distributed to the participating by” and section 2, subsection 6 add after "annually" and add “and shall be distributed to a participant with a 3.5 GPA or above, and scaled by fifty thousand (\$50,000) dollars by every half-point (.5) of GPA above that threshold." - Failed, one of the reasons being the mention that not all medical schools use GPA to track how their students are doing.

Friendly #1: In Section 2, Subsection 5, add between "a" and "community" the words "rural (any city excluding Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Norman, or Stillwater)"