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discussion about what proposals a health care facility would like to make and what expenditures they would like to make in terms of expanding their facility or adding to their equipment or increasing their services. Now part of the advantage of certificate-of-need, not only does it reduce cost, but it's the public discussion of the matter, by bringing it forward to the public, so that everybody has a chance to see how different facilities wish to go forward. And the reason the public needs to be involved and why the state has an interest in this is how much of the cost of health care is borne by taxpayers. About 65 percent of Nebraska's hospital revenues are from Medicare and Medicaid. Forty-five percent are Medicare and twenty percent are Medicaid, as I understand it. So either the state or the federal government or both combined to spend a significant amount of money on hospital care for our citizens and our taxpayers, federal taxpayers, have to bear the burden of that cost. On the nursing home side, about 52 percent of our residents are Medicaid residents, and that can vary. That's on average. But clearly, a significant amount of money is spent on our nursing homes in the state of Nebraska, again, on Medicaid, which is largely federal but also state responsibility. So when you talk about duplication of resources, when you talk about not only extra beds but equipment and services that duplicate each other, you add to the cost of the health care system, and that's borne, in part...and in some cases in large part...by taxpayers through our tax dollars. That's why the state of Nebraska got involved in this issue and why we continued to have an interest, as well as to the protect the general public, who through their premium dollars and their personal pocketbook have to pay for the cost of health care. So cost is one of the first factors that are involved in why we need certificate-of-need. The second deals with the need to protect the health care infrastructure. If you're going to make a significant investment in a hospital, in a nursing home, in a piece of equipment, the idea is that you not end up making that investment and having it later challenged and then revenue lost and the overhead, the fixed cost continue, but you don't have that infrastructure protected. Likewise, the infrastructure that a community hospital provides, a broad set of services to a community, whether it be a large community like Omaha or Lincoln or a smaller community, it's a very important part of a community, a hospital is. Anybody who walks in the emergency