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SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Combs, followed by Senator Brown, Schimek, Synowiecki, Thompson, and Byars. Senator Combs.

SENATOR COMBS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I really struggle with overriding the Governor on anything. I really respect Governor Heineman and he's doing a tremendous job and has shown great leadership so far, and I know that he is mapping out a plan that will not only cover the rest of this term but that will also take us into another four years, perhaps ten years. And I know that he's looking forward to what the expenditures are going to be and how much money we're going to have to do them, and it's just as difficult for him as it is for us in here. I must say, as a nurse, I look at community health centers as extremely important. I echo a lot of what Senator Stuthman has already said in terms of utilization of emergency rooms. These are the people that will be utilizing Medicaid programs. I don't know if anyone has ever bothered to look at the data from the community health centers. Tremendous how they use nurse practitioners, they use physicians, they use nurses, they use paraprofessional staff, they use PAs. They use all levels of healthcare providers to keep people out of the most expensive kinds of care settings. They also do a lot of preventive healthcare, healthcare teaching, things I do in my job at Farmland, where I have 11 different nationalities working in a meat-packing plant, and a lot of what I do is just healthcare teaching, basic things that people need to know and teaching that we do to keep them out of the healthcare setting, self-care things, things they can do to stay healthy. So I do support better and more community healthcare centers. I know, because Lincoln-Lancaster healthcare center has come and spoken at Public Health Care (sic) Solutions in Crete, they do plan eventually to put a satellite in Crete. They will not be able to do that in my district without the funding they need, not only to fund the current centers but also to expand. And this kind of service, as someone else mentioned previously, I think Senator Stuthman mentioned, they also utilize not only our dollars but they also apply for grant programs. They get federal dollars. You know, because they exist, they use other funding besides the state. They are not totally dependent on us, but we are seed money that's essential for them to use to