

written, would provide payment on a quarterly basis, not on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis, but on a quarterly basis. The bill provides a cap. To expedite the payment and to determine eligibility, of course, the people who provide the service can, in fact, develop the information. That means the hospital, the doctor, the clinic, or whoever it might be, and provide that information to the Department of Social Services. The Department of Social Services then has the obligation to determine the eligibility. Why is this a good deal? That is a good deal because we shouldn't have to have social service workers duplicating that kind of a responsibility as well. There is no reason why that information can't be gathered by the provider who generally is providing the service anyhow. There will be an amendment, so you understand, offered on Select File, hopefully, by Senator Haberman that will make it clear that these funds will, in fact, include in those areas, and especially in the greater Nebraska rural counties of the state, funds to cover those extraordinary health costs. In some cases, they are developed for people who are incarcerated and in their jails. To be eligible for the program, the income has to be at or below the current federal poverty guidelines and you have got to meet the resource limits set by the department. You have to be qualified for no other reimbursement programs. In other words, you can't have private insurance and you can't be reimbursed from any of those public, federal or state, programs that I have already mentioned, and you have to have no other payment source. So, in fact, there will be a limited number of people. I honestly don't think we will spend \$12 million, and for that reason, I do have serious concerns about the A bill that is coming up, and the proposed and projected cost for administering this program, which seems to me to be high, if not extraordinarily high. To participate in the program, you have just got to meet the criteria, and in some cases you would even have to spend down to be eligible. Ladies and gentlemen, what this is is an opportunity and, in fact, a responsibility for us to meet a very important unmet need, and I wanted you all to, hopefully without taking too much more time, understand the importance of it. I know we have got a lot of big ticket items. This is an important priority along with all the rest, and I would like to ask that you allow this bill to continue to move from General to Select, and rather than me ramble about the bill, I want to be in a position to answer any specific questions you might have. So with that, Mr. Chairman, thank you.