

should be medically, ultimately costing the state much more money than what this cost would be. This would not reimburse hospitals for an awful lot of other costs that they have. The cost was determined based on information we have had for sometime from hospitals that are providing this kind of care, and remember I mentioned the percentage of hospitals that are providing that 80 percent of the care, but every hospital in the state to a degree is providing this kind of care, and if they are a greater Nebraska hospital, even if it is a very small amount of care, if they have a large amount of Medicare patients, their costs are already limited, and even though they have a small amount of people they are treating indigently, the cost is even more severe, even though it might be just 2 or 3 percent of the people they serve. Senator Elmer mentioned a couple of things, and I appreciate his support, and I just want to reiterate the fact that the only people served in this program will be those who will be determined to be eligible for it, and no one else. Senator Moore mentioned about property tax relief, and you shouldn't vote for this because it is a property tax relief bill. It will, in fact, provide funds for payment for indigent care that counties are now providing. I think this year that will be somewhere over \$4 million, whatever the recent numbers are. The list I had of medical and hospital expenditures for counties by county is, the last number I had is '86-87 number, and given the cost of health care programs, I am sure it is higher than that, but please remember that this is a capped program. This isn't an open-ended pool of money that health professionals and providers can get their hands on at all. This recognizes that there are, in fact, people falling through the cracks. There are people that should be served. There are institutions out there that if they are not reimbursed for some of this indigent cost have to transfer it and pass it on to other costs, and they can't do it to Medicare, they can't do it to Medicaid, they can't do it to general assistance, so they simply have to transfer some of that cost onto the people who privately pay, and that is all of us, all of us in this room. But, in fact, if Medicaid costs have gone up, Senator Moore, to some degree that has to do with the very liberal program which is a very good program in Nebraska. It wasn't the fault of counties. At the time that Medicaid bill was passed, by the way just so you all remember, Nebraska was only one of four states in the country where the counties were demanded to pay and use property taxes to pay for health care costs, and that is unreasonable. That is unfair. In fact, that is not and should not be an issue as this bill is considered. Senator