

that \$12 million cap, at least I can look back for the record and say, I told you so. The first part on page 7, the middle paragraph, it says, a general estimate of the amount of charity care provided by hospitals may be determined by multiplying the statewide gross revenue of hospitals by the national percentage of estimated charity care. The statewide gross revenue for hospitals in Nebraska is approximately \$800 million. Multiplied by the 4.1 percent national estimate for charity care, one has a figure approaching \$32.8 million for charity care in Nebraska, \$32.8 million is that estimate. If you go back to page 8, the second full paragraph, it's another estimate and I'm going to just read it into the record so it is there and you can read the whole thing. But previous to this, it is described another way of calculating it, and it says, this method estimates that the statewide total cost for indigent care of those persons under 100 percent of the poverty guidelines is 40 million, 40 million. Now if you take it on further, those persons under 125 percent of poverty guidelines it is 75 million and those persons under 150 percent of poverty guidelines is 98 million. Well, the last two figures are...really don't make any difference, we're not talking about that but, as you can see, the actual scope of the problem out there is between somewhere possibly, very likely, between 32 and \$40 million. Now this bill has a cap on it. Now it has been sold basically as property tax relief. Now the actual impact it will have to counties is even less than the \$12 million, we know that, but actually I am saying here and I had the people who made predictions from this microphone, I know that, but I'm saying that the scope of this problem is much more than \$12 million right now. It is estimated between 32 and \$40 million and you can bet your boots in a few years the state is going to be picking up this whole 32, \$40 million cost and, obviously, there are some other ways we can spend our money and, once again, it won't be 32 to \$40 million of property tax relief then, it will just be the share of what the state is going to have to pay. And I guess I'm just very concerned about our previous track record in this area. Ten years ago the 20 percent Medicaid takeover, you know, now it's roughly four times what we said it was going to be. Now we're taking this over which if you're going to argue, argue that we need to do it is one thing, but argue it in the name of property tax relief and really is actual property tax relief impact is much less than the actual bill and actually the scope of the problem is much more than \$12 million. It could be estimated as between 32 and \$40 million and, for the record, that's in the record and once again I'll probably be voting no on the bill at this time.