

SENATOR LINDSAY: Senator, the best I could do, again going back to one of these fact sheets that was passed out, is showing that for example in Albany, Schenectady, Troy, New York has a population of 846,000, they have one facility. West Palm Beach, Boca Raton, Delray, Florida has 790,000 people, has three facilities. It looks like it goes anywhere from actually anywhere from one to four in...for this population size.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How many do you think, in Omaha, it would take? And I'm just asking for your opinion.

SENATOR LINDSAY: I would...anywhere from three to five.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: From three to five?

SENATOR LINDSAY: I think that's the chicken way out, isn't it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Senator Wesely, do you have an opinion? And I'm not just trying to get comparisons, and if you have a reason for stating it.

SENATOR WESELY: Sure. In the review, if you remember the issue last year, the question was, will you be able to do at least 200 of these in the course of a year, that's what they felt a team needed to do to be good at this type of surgery, open heart surgery. And that's the threshold Bergan has been trying to meet and unable to meet because there is already so many other activities going on with other hospitals, they can't get enough volume to meet that need and that's the quality threshold, and the concern that's been there, that you bring them in and they won't have enough to meet that quality issue of 200, and the other hospitals that may be at that or close to it will drop down because some of their people will go there. So everybody loses, everybody doesn't have enough to be good at what they're doing, and that's a real concern.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, he's the question that I'm asking, how many...

SENATOR WESELY: ...would be better?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How many facilities would it take to handle the number of people who need this surgery?