

is a place where they go for their services. This is where the coordination takes place. This is where we can eliminate duplication. That is why this is crucial for us to put the funding in this program. As I said, it is not a 10 percent increase in their budget. I am asking for 33 percent of what was not...of what I was originally asking for which is one-third, which is \$400,000, when they said we will give you 110. That is the difference in what he said and what I am saying. We are willing to spend in this body millions of dollars, continual increases in the budget. Look at your appropriations in Medicaid increases. The idea of these kinds of programs and services came about with the care management bill that I passed last year with your assistance. We have put that in place. Now what we are doing is we are saying those people that are in need will be assessed. They will receive the services that are necessary to help maintain them. These are not frivolous kinds of things that we are asking for for these people. This is where the money will go. It will go directly to these people for their services. We won't add any dollars for any more offices, any more staff. They are already there. The money will be able to...will help them to be able to facilitate this process and make use of existing services in the communities. The reality of it is that we are living in an aging society. We are going to see that our population will continue to grow older, more at risk, and more frail. They are going to live longer. They are going to be sicker. If we can provide in-home services and get that mechanism in place, face up to the fact that it is going to have to be there, folks, if we can get this in place, we can end up saving dollars. We will be spreading it over those people that are going to have to have those services. The only other alternative is that those people will not receive their services and we are going to be some of those people someday, folks. So if you want to look at it more selfishly than just looking at how you can help other people, look at it for your own selves, too. We are going to all need these kinds of things in the future. Remember that this body passed a bill in 1982, LB 404. It was known as the Community Aging Services Act. They passed the bill, and the A bill, but they did not appropriate the funding that they said that they were going to appropriate with it. These folks have waited a long time for this. Many of these counties have no services. I think the time is now to put those services in place so that we have the mechanism there for that continually aging, at risk, population that we are going to be seeing growing and expanding in our state. And by the way, it is a needs-based program to a