

allow those developments, those improvements that are needed in the community. I think it has been shown that...it's been shown to the CON committee, to the appeal board, to the district court once that there is no need. There is no need for an additional open-heart surgery unit in Omaha. There were, in I believe in 1980...either '87 or '88, there were 1,174 open-heart surgeries. Omaha has a capacity to do 2,250. We're barely over half our capacity and we think it's important that we add another open-heart surgery unit. I don't think it makes any sense. That is not going to help anyone as far as health care costs or as far as, as I'll talk about a little bit later, health care quality. I think if that's not the goal of what we're trying to do, I'm not sure what the goal is. The, again, to repeat, Omaha has the highest number of open-heart surgery units per capita of the top, I think it was 20 cities that were studied, of cities of comparable size, we're not even close. We've got five of them in Omaha, we don't need that many even. We certainly don't need one more. As far as costs, I don't think we're going to save costs, I think it's going to actually harm, at least St. Joe's. I think that's pretty clear and I think it's going to harm it in a couple of ways. First of all, I think by Bergan Mercy's estimates it is going to take away 142 cases per year from St. Joe's, 142 cases is what St. Joe's will lose. It is going to result in a loss of revenue, obviously, to St. Joe's in the millions of dollars, but more importantly we've got to look at what that loss is going to do. First of all, sure, it's going to cost them on the cost side, or on the revenue side, and I don't think I need to go into that, but what I should go into is that it is going to impair the teaching ability of the St. Joe's Hospital, one of the two teaching hospitals in the City of Omaha. I think it's important to note that the University of Nebraska...let me back up, one of the two teaching hospitals in the State of Nebraska, I believe, as far as those that have the university right there. The University of Nebraska Medical Center only does 6 percent of the open-heart surgeries in Omaha. They don't have a big program. When...the university sends a lot of their students to St. Joe's to learn these procedures, to get their training, using St. Joe's Hospital. Additionally and obviously, St. Joe's uses it for its teaching facilities. What is a possibility in the event that that drastic number of loss of open-heart surgery opportunities, what is certainly a possibility is a...it could trigger an accreditation review, and if accreditation falls short because of the numbers, we're not going to have a teaching hospital in the state that can teach our medical students how to do these.