

communities have more of a problem with runaways. On the other hand, a city like Omaha has had a major amount of problems with drug and gang-related activity. So the philosophy of the bill is we need a state and local partnership to address this problem and we're going to put into place a system to provide grants to community-based organizations or agencies to help them develop and implement a system of juvenile services which could start at the low end of the continuum and offer preventive services on up to the high end of the continuum to where you get into the nonsecure and secure detention. That is the community's choice. Community here is designed to be flexible enough to be, if you're an urban community like Omaha, the definition of community here could actually be one neighborhood in Omaha could come in and apply for this or the whole city could. That is left up to that area. We are trying, on the other hand, to recognize in rural areas, such as where I'm from, that it's probably unrealistic for any one community alone to take on a problem of this magnitude and so, within the guidelines of this program that are laid out, we put in encouragement, in fact, direction to the granting entity that priority would be given to regional cooperative kinds of proposals. So basically that community, however they define themselves, brings the grant in and says, here's what we think our priority is to deal with juvenile crime problems, we propose this, and it goes through the granting process. They could do anything ranging from a shelter care for runaways; they could do group home programs for status offenders. They might decide they need to do more intensive probation to keep juveniles out of jail. They might do delinquency prevention work in schools. They might do drug abuse prevention. They might decide our biggest problem is secure detention. Again, that has to be determined by the community. So we try here in this bill to encourage and help finance the creation of these kinds of services and our goal is to have a minimum system of services in every community or region to address sometimes the very different needs of juveniles who get in trouble because, obviously, you treat a status offender a lot differently than you do some of the other kinds of youth that get in trouble with the law. The major changes from the green copy, if you happen to flip open the fiscal note that's in your book, I would encourage you to disregard that at this point. For one thing, I think the numbers are still incorrect and the other thing, originally the bill, well, the committee amendments struck some responsibilities in there to charge the counties for placing children in Geneva or Kearney and we are not pursuing that. In