

SENATOR KORSHOJ: And I'm sure it's in the bill, but how is this money going to be distributed to the outlying counties? Is there a formula in the bill, and will all the money stay in Douglas County, or will it go out?

SENATOR LYNCH: No. The money...

SENATOR KORSHOJ: I have no further comments, so just take whatever time you want.

SENATOR LYNCH: Well, I'll just take a few minutes. As I described the totals of how they would...as I've already described how the totals would be spent, Senator Korshoj, they would be provided...all the monies would be provided to all the hospitals, irregardless of where those hospitals are, whether they're in Omaha, Lincoln or outside of the Omaha-Lincoln area. And, as I described, if the requests for reimbursement did not exceed the quarterly allocation, they would be paid in full, without regard as to where in the state they were. I have a sneaking suspicion that because some of the hospitals outside the Omaha-Lincoln area, I'm saying that, by the way, so you'll all understand because Sandy Scofield corrected a lot of us from the Omaha-Lincoln area saying, don't say outstate. You know, if we're from the Panhandle, say the Panhandle, if we're from Tekamah, say Tekamah, or Herman, say Herman, but don't say greater Nebraska or outstate. So I'm not going to say that. I'm saying everywhere outside of Omaha and Lincoln, all of those hospitals would be reimbursed in total. I have a sneaking suspicion, Senator Korshoj, since an awful lot of the hospitals outside the Omaha and Lincoln area, everywhere else, who are hurting, because they do, in fact, provide a high proportion of care for the indigent, jail prisoners from smaller counties, less populated counties, that they will maybe benefit more than the Omaha area hospitals. The purpose of this is to provide the cost for the care to hopefully even offer an incentive to some of these hospitals who are already hurting to make sure they get covered, and we know they're already taken care of some of them, but maybe even do it a little bit better and have some confidence and guarantee they will be reimbursed. After about a year into this, we'll have some pretty good idea about what proportion would go to the Omaha-Lincoln area as compared to outstate. But right now, and I'm not saying this because I want your votes, and I do, but it's true. I really think that the hospitals outside the Omaha and Lincoln area have more, and rightfully so, more to gain from this than the metropolitan area