

what this is. This is a deficit appropriation to meet the needs. In viewing the Governor's budget and in viewing the bill that the Appropriations Committee put out then, which contained all the numbers from the Governor's budget, her recommendation did not fully cover this program, and so I am offering this amendment so that we can fully cover the program. The amendment will be down \$30,000 from what it was a year...from what we overrode a year ago because there is one of the residents that is not filled right now so that takes \$30,000 per resident, so we are lowering the amount by \$30,000, so the amendment override would be for 356,000 rather than 386 as it was last year. This is the program that was established in Nebraska in 1975 in response...the Legislature was in response to the fact that they were having a difficult time in getting doctors located in rural areas in the State of Nebraska, so they agreed to put some money into this program and for a long time the program was totally funded without General Fund dollars, but over the last few years there has been an erosion of that funding. There has been a loss of federal funds. For a long time the University Medical Center funded all of the stipends for all of the family practice residents and in '88, '89-90 they said that they were only going to fund them...fund 13.9 of them and the program itself was going to have to come up with the funding for the other ones up to the 18 residents that are in the program. That meant that they had to come up with \$120,000 for that. The funds had also been received from the Medical Center for the administration of this program and for faculty for this program and those dollars were reduced by \$20,000 in '89-90, or '88-89, and again in 1989-90 they were reduced by \$50,000 and also the Lincoln hospitals at that same time received a reduction in the amount of dollars that they could use for Medicare reimbursement for this program of \$80,000 for each hospital which meant another loss of \$240,000. So it is, in my opinion, I think it's something that we need to continue and I think it's a good way to spend General Fund dollars in this state because if they realized in 1975 already that they were having a problem locating doctors in rural areas, this problem is becoming even more acute. As we see many of the older physicians in the rural areas reaching retirement age, we are seeing a real lack of doctors out in the rural areas of the state. We have a number of communities right now that are looking for doctors and are having a very difficult time finding these doctors. The program has...I don't think it's in competition with the Medical Center at all. I think it simply serves as a complement to the Medical Center's program. It's a very cost effective way of providing