

help the poor people with LB 187 and you can see, you know, some of the financial health those hospitals are in. I'm not going to sit here and say they're (inaudible) money can do anything they want to, but on the other hand, I don't think 187 is going to make them or break them either. I think it is that important that we understand that. You know, and then after I raised the concern that, you know, the bulk of this money goes to Douglas County, well, you know, to begin with, the bill, LB 187, also raised the concern that there are \$8.6 million at the tip of an iceberg, and what the cost of this problem is statewide. And, you know, one of the arguments I've had about why all this money is located in Douglas County is because of the sophistication of Douglas County hospitals, they were the first ones to figure out how to play the game. And you pass a bill like this, a lot of those hospitals out across the state, it would be nice if their county boards, you know, are going to figure out they are entitled to this money and they are going to go get it. Now the part that concerns me is the fact that, yeah, they were nice to their county boards and wanted state money, but we've got to go get that. And so, I mean, if you're talking, if you're going to argue that...if you're going to argue that, you know, all across the state hospitals are going to start getting a lot more of this money, well that goes back into your problem of how much does this bill cost? I think Senator Wesely maybe can address, you know, there has been a variety of studies and this is a 40 to \$50 million problem statewide. And if you adhere to the argument that all the hospitals across the state, when the state gets involved in paying for this, are going to work a lot harder in getting the money, I think that just proves the theory that it's much more than an \$8.6 million problem. Yes, I know there is a cap on this bill the way it is right now, but it's just one of those things that, you know, and I use the state Medicaid takeover as an example of a program that comes in, you know, at 10, \$15 million and now is a 40 to \$50 million price tag that we all pick up here in the Legislature. Basically, it is an entitlement program that we lose control over. In 187 my major concern is that, yes, it's \$8.6 million in '91-92, but I...you know, my fear is that '94-95 we're talking 40, 50, 60, \$70 million and no, when we get to that price tag, no, a great percentage will not just go to Douglas County, it will go to hospitals across the state, but when you, you know, if you buy the argument that everybody is going to get a piece of this pie when it becomes a state program, I think you also have to buy the argument that it's much more than an \$8.6 million problem and it's going to cost a lot more. Those are my concerns about