

a community needs to go through in order to qualify for these funds. This bill requires that a community put together a community team. It requires that that team show evidence of community support. We have a similar...we have a similar and smaller process that already went on in this state that was due to money that I and other members of the Appropriations Committee inserted in the budget bill last year on more or less a pilot basis. We had, I believe, some 70 applicants for that money at the time. On the last round of debate when this amendment was adopted, I read off the kinds of things that communities brought in to address and it had nothing to do with the issues of contraception and abortion. I don't know what all 70 of those particular proposals were. I have my staff calling to find those out right now but, quite frankly, I would suggest to you that the screening process that's already been developed is working in terms of putting the money out to communities to let communities address the problems that they see as priority. The projects that were funded out of the money that we put in last year dealt with severe emotional disturbance for family preservation for children and families. Saunders County did some work with Indian families. The Kearney area did...I don't have the note on that, parenting project. The Kearney area did a parenting project. The Grand Island Case Coordination Team did a parent and school and community partnership. A number of activities related to family preservations teams is going on out there, case coordination work in Cheyenne County for the development of family preservation teams. Mental health and substance abuse services are going on in Region 3. Red Willow County area probation for District 3 probation, working on juvenile justice issues. That's how the money has been spent. The communities are coming in and saying, these are our problems, these are the kinds of things that we think are priorities. Obviously, those are the ones that were picked out of 72 grant proposals. And so I think the screening process that's working there is helping communities identify what they think their number one priority is. And it would be a darn shame if we get in this kind of wrangle that we're in right now and refuse to take the proper precautions to deny these communities opportunities to address their concerns, because I don't know how...maybe Omaha is rich enough to solve their own problems. Apparently they're not. We put three hundred and some thousand in here last year to help them deal with juvenile crime and I was glad to do it. But I can tell you that smaller communities in this state simply don't have the bucks, simply don't have the opportunity to address their problems. They've