

was...the explanation was very clear. There was little discussion, there wasn't anything hidden about it, it was very straight open is what it was, and it was one of those that was advanced 26 to 1, and we all know what those votes are. People are here, sounds good, it's right, they vote and we don't need to ask for a call of the house because we've got the votes, we say record and on we go. And the rationale again at the time was there was no discussion about should we have this up for competition. The discussion at the time was what's in the best interests of the kids now, who have been ignored for 30 years, for this first 75-bed facility. And one of the things I kept trying to tell judges out in our part of the state, and apparently the message still isn't getting out, is that with 75-bed facilities don't fool yourself. This is not going to be a facility that judges immediately are going to have something that they can threaten their kids with, say, if you don't settle up...or settle down and behave and you don't do your probation right, and you didn't do Kearney or Geneva right, we're going to send you to that secure facility. It's not going to work that way. It's going to be full, we know that. It's not going to be an option out there yet. But one of the discussions that we had over the development of 988 was what is in the best interests of the child. There were over 68 task forces that were working at the time of 988 in the area of juvenile justice. And all of them came together and one of the recommendations was we need to have a secure facility and it needed to be in Omaha, that first one, for a couple of reasons. Number one, the transportation costs will be the lowest because that is where our children, unfortunately, are going to come from. I wish none of them came from Omaha. I wish we didn't have any of the problem, but we do. And the second reason was on the community-based programs that right now John Hill, in the Office of Juvenile Justice and office of OJS is working on are the pilot programs and those programs are most available in the Omaha area, and Lincoln as well, Lincoln has good programs, but certainly in the Omaha area. In the western part of the state, such as in Dawson County where Senator Cudaback represents, Lincoln County where I represent, certainly Harrison, not Harrison County but the community of Harrison, Arthur, Cheyenne County, Logan County, they don't have the community-based programs, they don't have the programs we need. So when we have the child in a secure facility, if you'll remember 988, we were going to develop the facility around the programs. So if the child needed counseling on mental health, if he needed help on addictions, if they needed counseling, if their families needed counseling, we were