

together to talk about how we can solve the problem. My district, and Ernie's, and Hilgert's, and some others, you know, there's a lot of houses out there you can probably afford to live in, you know, 45, 50,000, 35,000 in some cases. Got one in my neighborhood worth 18. I'm not sure what this committee is going to do about that. The problem I have also is that there's nobody from those neighborhoods serving on this committee, I guess listening and monitoring and talking about, you know, what their needs are. We know why we have a problem with housing. Those that can afford it move away from the old neighborhoods and into places they can afford, which I think is fine, and they should have that right, and they do have that obligation, if they want to. However, the problem of affordable housing has a lot to do with how neighborhoods are deteriorating because of policy that happens at the local level, it has to do with cities and counties allowing neighborhoods to go to pieces, it has to do with not providing what you need to help maintain people in their own homes, in a lot of cases that's simply elderly people who would like to stay home. There's no elderly people on this program to talk about what would be needed so they can afford to stay at home, I don't see them on here at all. My concern with this program and the reason I support the Maurstad amendment is I don't know why we need it. With all due respect I know the committee probably went to a lot of work. But I have serious concerns. To be completely frank another obvious absence is people who build. You know if we're only talking about affordable housing as we build it new, you know homebuilders and other people can put a program like that together. We're talking about affordable housing as it applies to people that need a place to live. I'm not sure how you're going to cut down on the cost of a house. You going to run a rubber hose from the toilet down into a cesspool, in the backyard? I mean that's how silly this can get. I'm not quite sure what they're talking about. I have concerns with it for that reason. And I haven't heard anything so far, and as I read it, which I don't do very often, but I read through part of it, it has a worthy goal. But in my opinion this is one of those things where I don't think we need legislation to accomplish this. These same people who are good citizens, who want to try to help, can do that, but what they ought to address is not just new construction, they ought to address old construction, they ought to address maintaining neighborhoods, they ought to get involved with social issues that force some people to stay where they're at because they can't afford to move, as compared to those that can simply