

nonprofit hospital, you would still have a report required to the Attorney General, and that would be probably about the end of it. But the Attorney General does have oversight over nonprofits, and there is that oversight. It's been there before, it's been there...it is there now. In some ways, it's being recodified to a small degree by LB 681 but, nevertheless, the authority of the Attorney General over nonprofits has been there and continues to be there, and all that this bill does is require a report to them that such a merger or acquisition is occurring. You also have in place currently the Certificate of Need process which would continue with...reviewing a merger acquisition and that look is based on the need, the effect of the merger on quality of services, those sort of issues and that is already in place. You also have already in place the Federal Trade Commission and this is back to the issue that is in Lincoln and a bit of the issue that is in Omaha. That is the question of market share. When you get a large entity like Bryan Hospital merging with Lincoln General, what impact will that have on the market, likewise Alegent and with the situation with Immanuel, Bergan and now the Medical Center, what impact will it have on the market? Those issues, those market issues are largely a responsibility of the Federal Trade Commission and all these things I have just gone through in this scenario are already in place. So really this bill does not really affect, to a great degree, the situation except again to the report to the Attorney General. What is changed is the situation of a nonprofit or for-profit hospital going to a...being sold to a for-profit entity. Again you still have in place the FTC role in terms of restraint of trade and market share that is maintained. You do have the Attorney General...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...that is brought into this under the bill. Again they currently have authority so they could currently be doing something, but this does outline what they are to look at and a bit of the criteria but does not require, under this amendment, that they initiate a review. That would be something that they would have some discretion on. But the bill does require that the Health Department, who is already doing a Certificate of Need process, would have to have a unified system now to look at other issues and address the concerns that I was expressing looking at impact on indigent care, access to affordable care, those things would be integrated into the