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what others have to say on the issue, but I don't intend to bring this to a vote today.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Discussion of the Schimek amendment, Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you very much, Madam President. If we found out through natural disaster that Halsey was way...made...obliterated by a tornado or, or Wynot, or Taylor, or Merriman, the state would respond quickly, those people would not be homeless. What we have in the situation in Omaha is the Paxton Manor, which is approximately 180 individuals, their home, perhaps losing it within a few months. That's the real choices that the management is facing at the Paxton, and it derives from what Senator Schimek ably brought up regarding the provider rates for the AABD individuals, how Nebraska's rates are behind others in our region and how they're not paying the bills for those providers who are trying to provide this service to this vulnerable population in the state of Nebraska. So what Senator Schimek brings to...I applaud her and I appreciate that she asked me to cosign the amendment for discussion purposes, but this is something that I'd like to raise in the consciousness of the body that as long as we are not committed for equitable and sufficient provider rates we're going to have fewer and fewer nonprofit organizations and other service providers willing to basically go into this business because they're not going to be able to stay afloat. The case in point and the poster child, if you will, for someone in that position is the Paxton Manor in Omaha. It's a great concern that I may be faced within a few short months, a hundred and...approximately 180 individuals in my district that will become homeless if something is not done. That is of great concern to me, it's a great concern to the people who live in downtown Omaha, and should be a great concern to the state of Nebraska. We're not certainly casting any blame anywhere except that there are increasing, increasing needs for this population and we have to address it at some point in time. I'm not sure if this is the way to do it. It certainly is the front door version and would certainly do the trick, but maybe there's other ways. Maybe some individuals in Washington could perhaps help us some day to make sure that our Medicaid, and so forth, requirements are more user friendly for the individuals that