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Senator Foley would like extra time, I'd certainly give it to him.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Foley.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Vice President (sic). (Laugh) Thank you, Senator Engel, for the time. I think you've hit on the key point here. We know today that there are communities throughout our state--and Senator Stuhr pointed this out very well in her speech earlier--a community as large as York, a community as large as Seward, Nebraska, has no provider under this program? No provider, because there's only 14 providers under this program, 14 providers. Yet there are 450 providers under the Every Woman Matters Program. Why would we do it that way? It was an administrative decision made 14, 15 years ago, and nobody around at HHS can remember it, but it happened, and then those contracts got repeated and renewed, year, after year, after year, and it's time to change that. It's time to open up this program to more providers. The existing providers? They can come right back in with a new application. They'll have every opportunity to do that; they're included in the amendment. They're in there, and they know that. HHS is about to go out with a new solicitation. Those providers can come right back in with other providers, so we won't have people in Mullen, Nebraska, driving 91 miles to get services. That's ridiculous. We're talking about fundamental healthcare. We're not talking about MRIs and CAT scans. We're talking about fundamental health services. Let's make them available statewide. That's what this amendment is about. It simply opens up to more providers. It doesn't change the appropriations level. I've respected the work of the Appropriations Committee. And this is the right place for this amendment, because this program only exists in budget language. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Foley. Senator Thompson, followed by Senator Preister, Senator Erdman. Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I was first appointed to the Legislature in late 1997, and this came up in, actually, in 1998. It was...it came up during my first year here. It was proposed by then Governor Ben