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under the opposition of the Governor's Office. But I think what they have proposed to do right now to put the one portion back in for this coming year, I think that's the right thing to do. I'm very excited about the fact that we are doing something for these community health departments which, in my opinion, is the best thing that we can do for people of low income, people that can't afford their medications. We have a very good health department in Columbus just like the other four of them in the state of Nebraska. They do a wonderful job. They serve the needy, the poor, the low-income, the poverty people. They can go there. I think we have the issue that, if they go to that health department, they won't end up at the emergency room. And if they end up at the emergency room, who's going to be paying for it? It's going to be tacked on to something. And if we can just keep a large percentage of those people out of the emergency room, I think we have a very successful program. And I truly support this, and again, I want to thank the Appropriations Committee. I want to thank the Governor for allowing us to put this small portion back into the budget. With that, I'll turn some of my time over to Senator Synowiecki if he needs a little. Senator Synowiecki.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Synowiecki, did you wish to use some of Senator Stuthman's time?

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Yes, thank you, Senator Stuthman. I appreciate your comments and appreciate your leadership in the Columbus area relative to your community health center. We had that debate just a few days back relative to our Medicaid dilemma and you talk about significant cost factors in our budget. This, I think, mitigates that. It serves that gap, that population gap of individuals that are, for the most part, working people but they don't have the health insurance. And these type of programs, these community health centers, keep these individuals off the Medicaid rolls, quite frankly, and they serve that gap in that population that is lacking health insurance yet working. And I think they're vital to our healthcare in the state of Nebraska for our working poor. So I want to thank you, Senator Stuthman, for your leadership in the Columbus area and actually instigating that community health center in Columbus. You've done great work. I'm proud of the