

proposal, it has a fit with what we currently do, and it does not necessarily step out of line from the current way we've been handling the situation. And I am suggesting perhaps advancing the bill, and then hopefully working with Senator Dierks and Senator Vrtiska to examine the current activities in this area because one of the concerns I had about this piece of legislation was you can put the money in, you can help with the residency, you can have the expense. As Senator Dierks said, this bill could cost up to 6 or 7 hundred thousand dollars on an annual basis. That's a lot of money, but, currently, we spend 5.6 million on this type of residency assistance, so that's even a larger amount of money. In light of that, are we getting our money's worth? I think generally the answer to that is yes. From what I've seen, the primary care residencies that we've had, they range in number, percent of individuals that come through the program staying in Nebraska from about 56 percent to about 89 percent. The Family Practice Clinic here in Lincoln has an 89 percent retention rate of individuals that go through that residency staying in Nebraska. But, nevertheless, would it not be a fair and appropriate thing to ask that if somebody gets a subsidy through a residency that they have to stay in Nebraska or that they need to stay in primary care as a condition of receiving that assistance. We don't ask that now with the current programs and I was thinking that that would be something appropriate to ask for the current bill that is before us, LB 152, but it would be, in my view, unfair to make that requirement of this new effort and not of the current efforts. And so having found that out, it seems appropriate to think about the money we are spending in this area and how that can best attain the goals that we all share, I think. Now, currently, as I see it, and I've got materials I will try and get in a form that's clearer than what I've got now, but there is about 91 medical students that are in family practice residencies across the state, about 91. Out of those, about 38 that I can find are state subsidized through current residency programs, through the Medical Center, through Family Practice program down in Lincoln, and then there is a Creighton program that has three individuals that are subsidized. There are 19 family practice residencies subsidized by the federal government. Hospitals subsidize about 9 1/2 themselves, private hospitals, and six, almost seven, are subsidized by the Medical Center.

SENATOR HALL: One minute.