

once again we are sending money out but it is without certainty of results. And, again, Senator Vrtiska talked about the need for rural physicians, we all know that's the case, but there is nothing in this that says that individuals...well, actually, there is some element of that, there is an additional incentive if you stay in Nebraska primary care, but aside from that, the base residency assistance doesn't mean that you end up having to stay in Nebraska. And it seems to me that the goal ought to be, number one, have people that we help with subsidies stay in Nebraska; two, hopefully help them stay as primary care practitioners, which is what we really need in this state, not more specialists; and, third, if we could particularly help them move to the rural areas of the state. Those are our priorities and currently I am not sure that we have any targeting of our resources to accomplish those goals. I think, as I said, to a large degree people stay in Nebraska, and I think to a large degree they stay in rural Nebraska, but it is not necessarily so. And currently we spend \$70 million on the Medical Center, and I have been raising questions, and introduced LB 784 as a result of wondering, are we getting \$70 million worth of return back to the state. About 60 percent of our graduates out of the Medical Center leave the state, so our state taxpayers are paying a great deal of the cost of the education of those individuals, but almost two-thirds of them end up leaving and going somewhere else. Now, on the other end of this scale is the residency issue. They have gone through their education, now they are in residency. Seems like from the figures I got most of them stay in Nebraska, but are we truly getting our biggest bang for our buck, and so there is a study element in some legislation we have out on the floor that calls for the Med Center to look at primary care, to look at rural health care, and to come back with some planning by the end of the year that will help us improve our stratagems. And I just, again, I am not faulting the bill so much as I am the current system that we have that this integrates into that isn't saying, look, if you are going to get assistance from us, that we expect you to stay in Nebraska, we expect you to stay in primary care, or you are not going to be getting the benefit of this subsidy. There are some specific concerns in 152. I don't think it particularly limits the number of residencies here. It could be just an open-ended number and that leads to the question of how much will this ultimately cost and commit us to. I think we need to look at some target number, again, that would then lead to staying in the state. This is a bill that particularly looks at Clarkson Hospital, and some issues have been raised about