

much but it all adds up, it all adds up. And, in my view, one of the things that needs to happen is to understand that we have no planning process that incorporates a broad view of where we need to be going. Now certificate of need used to have a state health plan, I think they still do, that they still refer to but it's not really been updated and it's not really a strong effort to try and integrate different resources and services. So it seemed to make sense to say, wait, before we start approving this 125 million more dollars of construction and projects, let's think about where we want to go, let's think about what we want to do, where we want to spend our money. Let's place some priorities on this. And so the thought was, let's get a planning process in place, let's bring all these elements together, let's see what we can do to prioritize our expenditures and what will make the most sense for Nebraska. And so rather than allow the certificate of need process to continue to go forward when we're not sure where we're headed, let's slow it up, let's stop it, let's look at what we can do in terms of a plan, how proposals fit into the plan and then we can better determine in a broader way what's happening. I think the big...again, the system we have now in place is provider driven. A hospital or a nursing home says, I want to do this, I think this is what's best for me, for our institution. So they come forward with a plan and then supposedly CON tries to look at it, does this make sense, does it fit in. And that's...that's the system that we have in place but it's now done out of context of a real strong planning process and so it doesn't work like it should. The CON process does not work as it should because it hasn't had that planning effort now for a long time and even when they did it wasn't as strong as it should be. This effort to put in place a regional planning mechanism will allow us to know better what we want to do, where we want to go and how we want to get there. And that's why the thought was that the CON ought to be held back until we get a plan. I mean, that just makes logical sense. Before you spend money, know why you're going to spend it and what you're going to get for your money. So, currently, there's about \$125 million pending. There's more coming in because the proposal from Senator Byars' district at Beatrice isn't even listed here and actually I don't know how much that's for. But there are more applications coming in all the time and some being approved and, like I said, the total amount we're talking about now is 300 million, 167 million of which have been approved, some additional that have been approved that we don't have a dollar figure for and then 125 million plus coming in that would like to get approved.