

you talk about planning it's the same thing. We're spending four and a half billion, five billion dollars on health care. We're talking here about one million dollars, a little over a million dollars so we can make sense out of a system that spends four and a half billion. Does that make any logical sense not to do that? I don't think so. I think we should be spending even more on trying to get this system to use the four and a half billion we spend to make it go farther, to be more efficient, to be more effective in serving the needs of our...our citizens. So every effort that we make, I think, to get a handle on this problem and a handle on the system is going to end up being a cost benefit of great dimensions. Now one of the other things I want to go through, again, I hope you have time to look through the handout because, in addition to some of the basic information, one of the things that we tend to do is not recognize where the money comes from. Part of the system problems that we have is money comes from somewhere else. Out of the amount Nebraska spent on health care, only 29 percent comes out-of-pocket. Now that...that's money you see. You're like a consumer buying directly your health care services, but that's only 29 percent. The other 71 percent comes from private health insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, other private or public payers of health care. So the system is not a consumer-driven system in the normal sense. The market doesn't work like it normally does because where the money comes from isn't from the consumer himself usually, or herself usually. It comes from somebody else, so their concerns aren't there to watch the costs, and their concerns are mostly with the quality of care, which is important. But obviously when you look at the cost side of things they're not the consumer they normally would be in other markets. So where does the money go to from those sources? Primarily goes into hospital care. That's 41 percent of the cost of care in Nebraska. So when we talk about the hospitals with data, when we talked about the buildings the hospitals are making we're not trying to pick on the hospitals. They are the large, largest cost item in the health care expenditure figure--41 percent in Nebraska. Now physician services are about less than...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...half that. They're at 18 percent. Nursing homes are even less than that at 11 percent and then other personal care is at 21 percent, so we do focus a lot on hospitals, but there's reason. They're a large part of the cost