

designed to address these concerns and has received the strong support of many groups and individuals including the American Association of Retired Persons with 126,000 members in Nebraska; Nebraska Senior Citizens Council who have made it their priority bill; the Retired Teachers Associations across the state; the Nebraska Association of Nursing Homes and I would specifically like to make sure that you all are aware of that, that they are not only endorsing it, but have given you another handout speaking to their endorsement; the Nebraska Hospital Association; the Nebraska Associations of Area Agencies on Aging; the Health Care Association which is the same thing as the Association of Nursing Homes and the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association; Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Nebraska has given us their endorsement; Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services which I'll speak to later; and many, many individuals across the state. In those four handouts that you received is a...handout number one is an outline of the contents of the bill which I would just like to go through very briefly section by section. Section 1 just tells you about the purpose of the bill which is to provide primarily for older Nebraskans care management services such as consultation referral and review of the services for individuals in need of long-term care. Section 2, the Department of Social Services shall certify the care management units in consultation with the Department on Aging. They will put together the guidelines and the standards for the program. Section 3, area agencies on aging will contract with, but will not directly provide actual services needed by individuals. You have a handout, number four, which indicates to you the area agencies and where they are located in the state. They are the natural placement for this program because of their long-time standing as being the advocate for the elderly and the vehicle through which elderly services have been developed and processed in the state. Section 4, the Department of Social Services will provide funds not to exceed \$200,000 in total to establish care management units in areas where none is present at this time and this amount of money will be more than replaced, and I will explain that to you a little later, before the end of the first year of the program. Section 5, the Department of Social Services will reimburse care management fees for those eligible for assistance under Title 19 and 20 or for those whose private funds would be depleted in six months to a level which would make them eligible. At the same time, individuals who have the