

ability to pay will be charged a fee, there will be a fee scale which will be based from 10 to 90 percent based upon their income which then will have the effect of making the program become self-supportive. Section 6, the Department of Social Services will reimburse each care management unit for costs not paid for by individuals. Handout number two details very simply the intent of the bill and it's just a one-liner of each of the different parts of the bill. Care management will develop a plan to assist the individual to remain independent and out of an institution for as long as possible. It reassesses the care plan on a regular basis. It prevents inappropriate and premature institutionalization. It's not a new concept. Twenty-nine states presently operate variations of care management programs and in Nebraska four area agencies on aging are presently operating very limited programs at this time. It will help to maintain the economy of the communities. It will save taxpayers' and private individuals' dollars. I would just like to conclude my remarks by telling you that we have had undue success in the pilot project in the South Central Area Agency on Aging. They were able to bring out...they assessed 38 individuals. Of the 38 individuals they brought out 27 from the institution and returned them to their homes and where they are being maintained at this time. It saves in the fact that your average institutional cost per month are \$1,124 in Nebraska approximately and this program has been proven to show that the average costs are \$175 or less per individual that was brought out and, if I added into that the \$200 that would give you living expenses for a person to maintain themselves in their home, and that is a very high figure when you're talking about low income people because they have all the other benefits that we've talked about before in this building. You would still make a savings of approximately, according to the bill which the A bill is not correct, and that is the reason I am submitting that, but we're working on that and we hope to come up with some changes. I don't understand the A bill. I think that the substantiation that we already have in the project in Kearney will let us know that we'll have in the first year, we're looking at...they're saying 50 people which is far less than we know will either be brought out of institutions or will be maintained outside institutions in that first year. The Kearney project has already shown us that we could save just by that one group of people they brought out alone, \$450,000, in that first year. We have many case histories. I could tell you about all the