

line of approach to this that Senator Coordsen is proposing, I don't think you can do it. But, secondly, in addition, that whole issue raises a further question of who is responsible financially in the circumstances we're talking about. If the courts have the sort of mechanism in place that we're talking about here, if they revert back in taking over control, as they would have liked to have had that power in the past, you have the question of them making placement decisions and not being financially responsible for them. In other words, we basically open up the state purse and allow the court system to make decisions without regard to cost in terms of placement of these children. Now I think whatever it costs to protect and care for our children is money well spent, and I've got bills to accomplish that goal. It isn't just a financial question, in my mind, but it's a question of overproviding for these children and in fact hurting them more than helping them that has been the trademark of a number of different judges and judicial decisions in this area. The judges that we've had problems with in the past have tended to like psychiatric hospitals. They put children in there in appropriate situations, and they're very costly, and that is part of the real concern here about the cost is that we will place too many children in psychiatric settings, which are really detention centers with a hospital function with a psychiatric function attached to them. I mean, they are mandatorily placed in there. A psychiatrist may pop in on them every once in a while to talk to them, but they are not really much more than a detention facility with the idea of providing for psychiatric care, in many instances. I have to question where some of these placements have occurred. I just got a case today of a three-year-old that a court wanted to place into a psychiatric hospital, the department said that is inappropriate for this three-year-old girl. The court now has that authority to take away from the state, Department of Social Services, bring back into the court's authority, under the county level, and then place the child wherever they wish. Of course the county then has to pay for it, but it's a county court, a county judge, and the county then is responsible. You've got the person making a decision and the responsible party for financing it all in the same governmental entity. So that judge made that decision to place that three-year-old child into a psychiatric hospital where, right now, there are a number of people trying to get that reversed. A three-year-old girl, and under the circumstances, very inappropriately shouldn't be in that situation. But talk about the option of changing that, right now we're not sure there is anything we can do about it right