

Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I would just rise to voice my approval for this amendment. I would like to tell you about a little incident that happened in my area that I think helps in strengthening the position of this amendment. My family doctor and close friend was at our house one night and he was telling me about a problem that he had with a youngster in our community whose parents brought him in for diagnosis. He was suicidal, a teenager boy. And the parents knew that he was and the boy knew that he was. He admitted that he wanted to do this and the doctor felt very surely that he was going to commit suicide. This happened on a Friday afternoon about four o'clock. So my physician tried to find a place to place this boy, at least for the weekend, and was unable to do that. When he called Norfolk there was nothing available. There is nothing available like that in our county. So the only recourse he had was send him back home with his parents, everybody plumb scared to death for the weekend and it left a real bad taste in the doctor's mouth and I think that the word is around the community that we have no way to care for these people. And so I think that with the opening of these extra beds that are really available, all except for the staffing, over at Norfolk, it would help to alleviate this type of problem. I would certainly wish that you would support this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. Speaker and members, I rise to oppose the amendment that Senator Peterson offers, along with several names that have been signed on. And I heartily concur with Senator Peterson's...his goals and I believe that his goals are the same as the Department of Public Institutions. Senator Peterson had two options, one of which would be to ask for the funds as an addition to the Department of Public Institutions. Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could I have the gavel, please.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Certainly. (Gavel.)

SENATOR HANNIBAL: I realize that everybody here on the floor thinks we have billions and millions and billions of dollars to spend but I don't think we do. And we had a little in...we have a little interest in a press conference yesterday where we have agreement and I understand it's just a matter of rote form. I