

the fact that we do have overall capacity now needed, to me is premature. It may be, and we have said this before, that the director will find a need to open that ward, and he has that flexibility. The department has that flexibility. It may be that the study will point out that we need to place our emphasis other than there, in which case, then it would be premature to open this. I would hope that we could hold off on adopting this amendment until after we have had a little more in-depth study by the Legislature which is going to take place this interim, allow our present program to take place, and not make this investment until we know it is the best possible use of our funds. I don't believe we know that at this point, and I would urge that you not adopt the amendment.

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Goodrich, followed by Senator Langford.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Oh, Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in wholehearted support of this particular amendment. Now let me tell you why. For example, the 300,000 we put in for the emergency psychiatric commitment activities this morning in the budget, this particular budget bill, on appropriations, what you handled this morning is for not this coming year but the following year. We have nothing to plug the gap. We have got, for example, a million, three, like Senator Hannibal said, in the Governor's recommendation, for example, which is in the budget bill, but that is for placing people in community settings. In other words, this federal legislation that they are talking about, and this is for the benefit of those who haven't been involved in that, that federal legislation says, in essence, that you cannot put these people in nursing homes anymore. You have got to get them out of the nursing homes. Well, you have got then two choices. You can either put them like in a Regional Center or you can put them in a hospital at \$400 a day, or find, as the Governor wants to do, some community halfway house type facilities. Now those facilities are not available right now. It will take a year to develop them and they admit that. There is no argument over that. But we have got a year between now and when the \$300,000 ability kicks in and also a year before the Governor's community-based programs kick in, we have to cover this particular year. Now, as Senator Peterson said, the City of Norfolk had 45 of these cases in 1988. They have got 23 of them so far this year. If that