

address. It's the hardest question, though, because as I said before when we talked about LB 1044, systems and programs and services are the nuts and bolts of government that are not the attractive issues that really have the public concerned and interested. What they want is they want results, they want to have services that they need and they want to have it at as low of cost as possible so their taxes are as low as possible. It's our job to look at the service that people need, and they need health and human services, I think we agree on that, and to look at the system that's out there. And I think if you do that you'll see that we have a system that is not working together as it should and it can be brought together and save money. So it's our job, despite the difficulty of doing it, to carry forward, despite the odds that we have and the opposition that we have, to make change when that change is called for. And that's exactly the situation we have here. This change is long overdue. It's been talked about for years and it's been looked at, studied, and I think clearly, with the support of the counties, although I don't know about the vote that Senator Klein talked about, the fact that they supported it at all is amazing to me. Because the counties, they have a situation that, that is comfortable. The status quo is always comfortable for those who are part of it and work by it and have benefited from it in some ways. So to change that is an uncomfortable thing. And I applaud the counties for recognizing that change is in the wind, that they should be part of that change in a constructive fashion. On the other hand, there are those who are opposing this and feel that the change is not needed and not willing to try and work on a positive improvement in the system. And one example I have for that is the one opponent to this bill came from Region IV, the model, model region that Senator Robak talks about. Well, let's talk about that model region because that model region was supposed to have in place, after a bill passed in 1987, to have what's called...

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...the EPC, emergency protective custody across the state in regions. When those who are mentally ill needed to have help in an emergency they were frequently sent to jail. We passed a law and said, that's not right, we'll set up these systems across, in every region, and we'll have it in place by 1991 and, and we will take care of these mentally ill. That's a concern Senator Robak has had, the mentally ill. Well, that