

and we cannot ignore that and feel that local control is always the solution, because in some cases local control is the very problem we're trying to address. But local control can still be maintained. Just because we no longer have a regional governing board made up of county board members who are contributing to the cost of these programs somewhere between 2 and 8 percent of the funding of these programs, that having those individuals who fund such a small portion of the cost of the programs controlling the programs, hiring the staff involved, does not, I think, lend itself to the sort of model you would normally see in the private sector. If you go around, and many of you come from the private sector, those that are paying 2 to 8 percent are source of the capital of 2 to 8 percent of a company ending up controlling the company you would have to wonder about the situation. I think the similar attitude ought to be here in state government, and public positions as well. The state is who's funding the majority of the cost along with the federal government. And by sitting down and working with these diverse different regions that are currently out there, we can bring them together, reduce some of the cost involved, and maintain services. Senator Chambers, you talk about my dulled sensitivity to the work, working poor and those individuals. Well, let me tell you, you know me, you know what I've worked on over the years. I have not lost my sensitivity and my compassion for the less fortunate. I am there as somebody who cares a great deal about them. And because I care a great deal about the poor, because I care about the mentally ill I'm bringing this legislation to you, because we're going to see budget cuts, we're going to see federal cuts, we're going to see other cuts whether it'd be through the lid or whatever we're talking about here in the State Legislature in the last few days. And when those cuts come, I don't want to hurt those people I care about. I don't want the mentally ill suffering. I don't want to see the poor hurt because we have got to go through budget cuts. I'd rather take a look at the systems that we have in place and find where we have waste and duplication and programs that are not working together, and let's find a way to save money there first. It's just like the discussion we had with the lid issue and the schools. That's what I think we have to be talking about in health and human services. We have a system that's been identified for years as not working as well as it can, both at the state level, which we're addressing with one bill, and through the regional systems that we're addressing with this bill. And I'm asking you to think again about the