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community-based behavior health systems; and three, require that all public funding for behavior health care system, including community-based funding, regional center funding, Medicaid funding, be integrated within the Nebraska Health and Human Services System to provide for the most efficient and effective transition of persons at the least costly and least restrictive treatment. The bill also requires the Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee to prepare and introduce legislation of amendments to the legislation of the Ninety-Eighth Legislature to implement such intent. Now on the committee amendments. Committee amendment AM1031 becomes the bill. It retains the legislative findings and definitions of the bill as introduced. It adds a definition of the Mental Health Board. The amendment adds legislative findings and intent with respect to the mental health commitments and the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act. The amendment provides legislative intent to, one, limit the number of medical health boards, and change provisions related to such boards; two, permit physicians and psychologists to initiate emergency protective custody procedures; and three, to encourage outpatient community-based commitments and avoid costly, inappropriate inpatient commitments, and facilitate the transition of persons from regional centers to less restrictive, community-based treatment. Also, all alternatives consistent with clinical needs of such persons. Four, it will clarify the authority and obligation of counties relating to the emergency protective custody of persons after commitment by Mental Health Board and prior to admission or such persons for treatment pursuant to such commitment. The committee amendment substitutes more generalized intent language, and allows more flexibility to the Chairman...person of the Health and Human Services Committee in drafting and implementing legislation related to such intent. I would ask for the adoption of the amendment, and advancement of this bill. Thank you, Mr. President. I'll be glad to take any questions.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Jensen. You've heard the opening on the committee amendments. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in favor of the committee amendments and the bill. I think the overall breadth