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LB 724

spending an awful lot of money, and we need to get the most for our buck. But I just want to go on record that, you know, it is going to be a difficult situation. And I hope that we have some of the new services in place before anything drastic is done. But I also want to go on record that we have inpatient services available. And Senator Jensen, could I ask you a question or two? Now, during this study...you know, this has been before the Health Committee. And I sit on the Health Committee. But this is basically just going to be a study through the interim? Or when is this going to be?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Well, this...thank you, Senator Cunningham. This is more than a study. This sets out direction. But certainly it would be my intent and...that upon passage of LB 724, that we will begin several meetings with all of the stakeholders, all of the providers, the regions, the county governance that we have. I visited with Larry Dix out in the lobby. He's pledged to me and I pledged to him full cooperation in working through the...all of the counties, all of the communities. This will be a very diligent effort, not only on the committee's part, but the staff, and certainly myself also. And then we will bring back next year to this Legislature what those findings are. And then we will, I'm sure, spend a great deal of time ensuring that this is the proper way to go. Also, by no means will we close down one facility or anything else until we have facilities up and ready to take care of those individuals that need the services.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Okay. And with the closing of the Richard Young Center, and there's less and less services available. we need to ensure that we have the services available for inpatient care. And you're also envisioning that out in rural Nebraska that there may be more services, as an example, in northeast Nebraska, that I represent, possibly in some other communities?

SENATOR JENSEN: That is certainly the intent. And I think that we can do that. I think that we can provide those services closer to the individual. That is very important. A few years ago, before the Supreme Court, there was the Olmstead decision,