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this tends to work? And what I'm particularly thinking of is the Panhandle area.

SENATOR JENSEN: (Microphone malfunction) Well, yes. Thank you, Senator Johnson.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes. Are you on now? Thank you. Yes. Thank you, Senator Johnson. The Panhandle, actually, Region 1, has done a remarkable job, in collaboration with the entire community. Out there, you know, you spend a lot of windsnield time. And so they found that they could, using Regional West, the hospital out in Scottsbluff, as the acute facility. But they have enlisted all of the communities around the system. They have reduced the cost. They have reduced tremendously the number of patients that were at the Hastings facility. And they have a system, as far as I'm concerned, that's to be modeled after. They've done just a great job. And they've done it, saying, again, as you started, let's do what's right for the patient. The providers, all of those that are working with services, we'll all join in. But number one is the patient. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Are you through, Senator Johnson? Okay. Senator Thompson, followed by Senators Smith, Hartnett, Wehrbein, Raikes, and Erdman. Senator Thompson on AM1031.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you very much, Mr. President, members of the body. I just rise in support of this effort. I know that it may not look quite exactly as it's in the bill now. But that's what the process is for. When I got reelected, I thought about what could be accomplished in the next four years that would be my highest goals. And I'm really not on the committee that can make this happen anymore, but this was one of them, along with what we're doing in community corrections. I think there's some work that needs to be done in higher education finance. I think there's a little more work that we can do to improve our juvenile justice system, until we have revenue to be able to get to that. But to me, this is one of the highest priorities we should have for the next few years. It's a system