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LB 724

further, as we will do in the next legislative session.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. I'll work on that. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise for a couple of reasons. One, I would like to rise and thank Senator Jensen for his efforts. This is probably, for a lot of us, not an area or an issue that came up in our thought process as far as running for the Legislature. But once we arrived here, we found out pretty quickly that there's a lot of things that need to be looked at. And I think the effort that Senator Jensen has undertaken, as well as the other individuals, focused on this area, are important. Another thing I'd like to say is that you generally look around to try and find out who's doing things right, to try and get a perspective of how things should go, and to ask some questions. And Senator Smith has already alluded to this. But the project that we have in the Panhandle, in Region 1, of Homeward Bound, is something that I think is a great example, if you will, as far as how the state can partner with the communities and the regions that we do have, and, as Senator Johnson has pointed out, to provide the best care for the patient possible. One of the things that we have seen in the Panhandle, obviously, being a lot farther from Hastings and other areas than most other parts of the state, is that's a big concern for being able to get those individuals back into society to become productive. And the discussion that I believe is going to be centered around LB 724 in the interim is one that tries to mirror the best possible services for those individuals. There's also the opportunity for those law enforcement officials to avoid the long trips, to trying to have people cover them in order to take that individual maybe from one of the communities in my district or Senator Smith, Senator Loudon, or other rural parts of the state, to Hastings, is a big concern of theirs. And it makes more sense, both from their standpoint and the overall benefit of the patient, to be able to have those individuals taken care of by the services that they can recognize in their communities. And I think that this is a step, a proactive step that we have seen in the Panhandle that hopefully will catch on through the