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large institutions and how they should change. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Wehrbein, on AM1222.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wehrbein, that won't be necessary. Your name was the last person wishing to speak, so we will go directly to Senator Tyson, for his closing, if he wishes to do so.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the body, I think we've had a good discussion on this. I don't know how well I have made my points, but I have two other amendments coming up that make specific points about this. We have an enormous problem in mental health in this state, and we are in the high forties, and I'm not exactly sure where, we are in the high thirties by another calculation that I saw several years ago, in the ranking of states as to how much we spend. The one that I remember was that we were just ahead of Mississippi and we were 49th out of 50. We have some substance abuse problems in this state that are overwhelming and that are growing at a very, very rapid rate. I don't know the solution to all these problems. I have a great fear, however, of acting precipitously and finding out later on that we did the wrong thing. I think we have to maintain the facilities we have. And I'll tell you one thing that bothers me. I believe that Senator Jensen has the very best of motives, and I know that he has devoted enormous number of hours, he's done a lot of thinking about it, he's consulted with a lot of fine people, and he's not going to be here four years from now. Half of this body won't be here four years from now. That lack of continuity worries me greatly because when you have a body composed of short-timers, both in and out, we could be in an awful lot of trouble and not even know it until it was too late. We already have a law that says, and this was passed in 1998, that says that we can't do anything with the regional centers until alternative plans are fully developed and in place. That's one of the laws, as a matter of fact, that this bill seeks to amend, 71-5053 I believe. I think we ought to go forward with the discussion. I'm not going to