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It's something we should have done long time ago and I think we should do it today. Thank you.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise to also offer my thanks to the Chairman and the members of the Health Committee. I, too, believe, as Senator Bourne does, that this is a very, very important issue and, you know, it's probably in some ways the most important issue that we deal with this session because it really does involve people's lives. And I'm probably speaking from personal experience when I address this issue because we have had mental illness in my family and it is a very, very difficult issue to deal with, particularly when it comes to services. So I believe that we have, in some respects, failed the people who are in institutions when we haven't willingly put the money that we needed to into community services. So I think we're headed in the right direction. I just want to make sure...I want to make certain when we get to the end that we are at the place where we should be. I think that what is constantly at the back of my mind on this issue is the fact that we have closed institutions before, we have put people out on the streets, and we haven't had the community services in place for those people, and we still are struggling with some of those waiting lines yet today, many years after the closing of some of these institutions. And I am concerned that we know up-front, before we ever close one of those institutions, that we're going to do the right thing by this...with this policy. Now, in the beginning, in the very beginning of the discussion of this issue, I was adamantly opposed to it, Senator Jensen. I think I've expressed that to you. And I was opposed because I didn't think that we were going to do it right. I mean, I've watched us redo the whole Health and Human Services Department and it was a very unhappy experience, because I don't think we had totally thought through the whole process. Now, maybe we eventually landed where we should be, but it hurt a lot of people in the process--employees, clients, and everybody. I don't want that to happen this time. In the interim between the first talk of this issue on the floor last year...and I did vote for that bill on the floor last year, I believe, because I think that it's