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FLOOR DEBATE

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from the regions. We don't want to tell communities what to do. They need to decide for themselves what is best for their community. Then the state has an overall plan. Then it goes to...after that plan is developed on the 1st of July, it goes to an oversight committee, an oversight committee that is composed of experts, 20 people around the state, a person from Norfolk, a person from Hastings, a person from the state employees union, as well as psychiatrists, psychologists, front-line workers, nurses with psychiatric training, are all going to be part of this oversight commission that will review that. Then October 1, they submit that to the Health and Human Services, who then come out with a plan. So we've built a lot of fail-safes into this. There's a lot of planning that will go into this program. You know, there's the old story: have a plan and then work your plan. That's exactly what we're doing. It's a plan that I think that we can be proud of, that will certainly keep people from falling through the cracks. Are there going to be some bumps in the road? Absolutely. Any new program does. But I think that we're going to have less bumps than what we have right now.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: I might mention, on October 18, I met with some individuals from Hastings. Dr. Dyer at that time mentioned that--and I'm quite sure I got my figures right--that in the system of the five...or of the three regional centers, we had 432 patients. There were 69 of those that were awaiting placement into the communities. There wasn't anything in the community to take those individuals. We cannot keep doing that. We must develop community-based services, so that we can provide the appropriate care to the appropriate persons. With that, Mr. President, that will conclude the opening remarks on FA1574. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. You've heard the opening on FA1574, which is the second component of the divided committee amendment. Mr. Clerk, motion on the desk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Tyson would move to amend this portion of the committee amendment. (AM3211,