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FLOOR DEBATE

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than 24 hours. Then they couldn't get rid of him fast enough, and they don't want to have anything to do with that, which is unfortunate, but it happens. Now the purport of this amendment is very simple. If you'll look on page 11, line 2, after the underscored period, you would put in this language: Such community-based services shall have been in operation for not less than six months. If the Governor concurs with the findings of the division, he or she may submit legislation during the next regular session of the Legislature to authorize the Governor to close not more than two regional centers. That's all it says. I would offer you that that would be a clincher on LB 1083, because it guarantees the sustainability. It's not that they're here today, are they going to be here in six months, are they going to stay the course, are they going to finish the race? Senator Chambers, that's from Paul to Timothy Second, chapter 4. I just thought... (laugh) a little transliterated there, but for the Christians among us, like Senator Chambers and myself. I think that this is an eminently practical way to ensure that the doubts that many of us have would be answered. I think that the transition period is going to be difficult, under the very best of circumstances. Were there to be dollar-for-dollar parallel funding, it would be difficult. And that is not the case here, because we've only got one pot of money and there's about \$26 million of that, because that's the state's share between Hastings and Norfolk, 26 million-some-hundred-thousand dollars that can be used for this. But you can't spend that money twice. You have to creep into the community services as you creep out of the regional centers. Now that can be done. It's going to be much, much more difficult, but it can be done. But once done, it has to be sustained. And we can't come back... well, I won't be here, but you can't come back and say, well, gee, we thought that this would be all right. I mean, we made a mistake. The mistakes you make are going to impact not the population of Hastings and Norfolk; they are going to impact all of the people that are dependent on them to furnish an ongoing mental health service. If this is adopted, I think that you have some guarantee that when the plan eventually comes out--because they have no plan now--they have a list of charges now. A good many people have seen this. They've gotten a copy of it from the Governor. I was told that this is the plan. You couldn't plan to go