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FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2004 LB 1083

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jensen, to open on FA1579 to LB 1083.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. This component is really Sections 21 through 46, the remainder of the committee amendment to LB 1083; after Section 20, is primarily technical to harmonize provisions of the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act with other existing acts in sections. Section 35 of the committee amendment changes the order of priority for admissions to regional centers. Currently, the order of priority is this: patients whose care in the regional center is necessary to protect the public health and safety; patients who are most likely to be benefited by treatment at a regional center regardless of whether they have been committed by a mental health board or district court or are admitted voluntarily; and, three, patients committed to the regional center by a mental health board or court. AM2889 changes the second and third priorities around and places committed patients as the second priority for admission; and then, number two, which is the patients most likely to be benefited by treatment at a regional center, regardless of whether they've been committed by a mental health board or a district court or they are admitted voluntarily. Then Section 42 of the committee amendment requires a mental health board to immediately notify the county attorney when the board receives notice of discharge of the committed person from a regional center. And then Section 45 is an outright repealer; Section 46 contains an emergency clause. That completes this component, Mr. President. Would move for its adoption.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. You've heard the opening on FA1579. Open for discussion on that portion. And there is an amendment to it, as stated by the Clerk. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, first of all, Senator Jensen, I have AM2951, but I think that you want to withdraw that one, Senator, or...

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is with....

CLERK: Is that right, Senator? I want to be sure.