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be working with individuals in chronic stages of substance abuse, and not having the ability to invoke an emergency protective custody would leave a probation, or I suspect parole officer as well, with only one alternative, and that would be to haul the individual to the county jail. And I've always been interested in the potential or the possibility of extending to our probation and parole officers the option or give them to tool, in those instances where they're dealing with an individual in chronic stages of mental health and substance abuse, to invoke an EPC, an act which now is only reserved to law enforcement offices. Senator Jensen, are you at all interested in possibly having a dialogue with my office between now and Select File to look at that, or do you have reservations with extending these EPC powers to probation and parole officers?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Senator Synowiecki, I would sure be happy to explore that with you. We have, you know, looked at this, and should a physician be allowed to commit and so on and so forth, and perhaps and perhaps not. But it is something I'd be glad to look at. Certainly the probation officer is the one who is probably most closely allied with that individual than anybody else that they come in contact with, particularly on an emergency situation. And they have reviewed the case. They've had the opportunity to examine...not to examine but I mean to certainly observe the individual and to the way that they act and carry on. And so I'd be glad to look at that with you.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Well, Senator Jensen, I appreciate your remarks very much, and I will follow up with that. Because, to shed a little bit of light on what goes on now, Senator, if a probation or parole officer comes across one of their clients that's in chronic stages of substance abuse, intoxicated, really is no choice but to haul them to the county jail. And this would certainly be a very valuable tool, I think, and what I think is your motivation to keep this population of those suffering from mental illness, and in some instances those suffering from severe chemical dependency, to get them the appropriate level of treatment. And I would submit that a