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March 23, 2004 LB 1083

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Now open for discussion on the advancement of LB 1083 to E & R Initial. Open for discussion, Senator Kruse.

SENATOR KRUSE: Mr. President and colleagues, I would like to tag in at the tail end of the lovefest we were having the other day, and since that time, honoring Senator Jensen. I've not heard so many nice things said about anybody since the elderly pastor finally decided to retire. And I don't have anything nice to say about Senator Jensen right now because then he would need therapy. I greatly appreciate what the committee has done, and I know I speak for many others here as we close up this. But I want to give special thanks to Brother Jeff, who has given heart and mind and time in great abundance, very generously. On behalf of all of us, thank you, Jeff. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Further discussion? No further lights being on, Senator Jensen, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I do want to thank everyone for their participation in this process, and it has been a process. It has been long and a lot of people have participated in it. It hasn't been easy, but it's...I think we've done a very good job and I appreciate everyone's participating in this process. You know, mental health is, and mental illness, is not a great deal different than many other medical diseases. However, how we treat it certainly has been in the past. And it behooves us as members of a legislative body to ensure that the process is equal to everyone, and we haven't necessarily done that in the past, and we've served some and we have not served others. And although it's difficult to serve every individual, we need to do our utmost to see that that takes place. Also, what we do must be fair. When you're committing someone to an institution, you want to make sure that that commitment is fair and is deserving. And so I hope that, not only today but in the future, we'll look at that process. But at this point in time, I'm very thankful to everyone who has participated. I feel that this is a new dawn of a new day for those individuals with mental illness, for those consumers, for those advocates, that we can move forward