

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 14, 2004 LB 1083

Among other things, this requires secure facilities, guards, security systems, and a staff that is both mentally and physically prepared and trained to use necessary and lawful force to overcome resistance or attack, and to weather abuse and threat. This is not for the faint of heart, and these things may not fit in well with a hospital staff and facilities. We regularly...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...find organizations or facilities that are engaged in the professional business of caring for people with serious mental illnesses...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Beutler. Thank you, Senator Beutler and Senator Schimek. Senator Tyson.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to make a few comments and then I would vote against the return to Select File or to strike the enacting clause. But LB 1083 does concern me, not because one of the regional centers is in my area in Madison County, but because I don't think that it's a well-planned operation. A compromise is in place and I agreed to abide by that compromise. I have mentioned to Senator Jensen and provided him with some newspaper clippings that indicate to me that, while we may hope for good faith, we may not be receiving good faith on the part of HHSS and its interim director, but I won't go into that. I'll just mention it. We hope that the compromise will stand. I've read the entire testimony before HHSS Committee. I've read with a special interest the comments of law enforcement because, while I have talked to a good many people in law enforcement, I have talked to no one who is not concerned about this. I have talked to a number that think that this thing is going to fall apart like a three-dollar watch, maybe a two-dollar watch. I think one thing we have to bear in mind when we discuss mental health is that the patients, the clients of mental health, are by the nature of their illness people of diminished capacity. I think that that is important to keep in mind. You can take that and translate that into the Department of Corrections. I have mentioned earlier on this floor that there is a bill in General File that