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FLOOR DEBATE

April 14, 2004      LB 1083

call us to take the intractable patient off their hands. They tell us they have no better alternatives and...

SENATOR VRTISKA: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...that they are not staffed, trained, or paid enough. They are not staffed, trained, or paid enough. They are not staffed, trained, or paid enough to deal with the behavior they must confront. They should be. The police car and the jail should not be the final care option for the high-needs patient. And I don't have any more time. Thank you again, Senator Maxwell, for the time, and I want to finish this testimony with my next opportunity. Thank you.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You're the next speaker.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I go on: We appreciate the fact that this issue has finally risen to the top of the public agenda. It has been a long time coming, and the leadership of the Governor and Senator Jensen in getting it here is commendable. We respect the good will of everyone involved in these proposed changes, but those of us in law enforcement have been here before and seen the vision ultimately not mesh with the reality after the ink is dry. This is what concerns me and it is the reason that we remain skeptically hopeful and neutral. More than anything, I hope you will pay attention to three key points as this moves forward: one, don't reduce the number of acute care secure beds available now at regional centers until you have at least an equal number available in community settings and until these have at least a brief track record of actually serving mentally ill and dangerous patients; two, ensure that the facilities that purport to care for mentally ill and dangerous patients actually have the capacity and willingness to do so without relying on law enforcement as their no-cost ambulance or their hired muscle; three, remember that Lincoln and Lancaster County, despite having better resources than most places, still have not nearly enough capacity for mentally ill and dangerous people, either pre- or postcommitment. We need help here and now. Plenty of mentally ill, dangerous persons who need a doctor in a hospital are being hauled around by my officers in handcuffs,