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FLOOR DEBATE

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that's been developed in our communities needs to be expanded throughout the state and can go a long way to help with that situation. I don't think we should hold up our process too long, but I also think that fears that are created in the community, we need to let them know there's going to continue to be those kinds of problems unless we do a better job as...

SENATOR JONES: Time.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...a state, and we can do that with LB 1083.

SENATOR JONES: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Next speaker is Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Jones and colleagues. I want to thank everybody who's participated in the discussion this morning. I think this is a discussion that from time to time is extremely helpful in understanding the disability community, the extreme needs of that community and how do we as public policy members address those needs. Unfortunately in this situation, our reaction is out of tragedy, and I don't think that there is anyone that feels worse than those of us who are passionate in their concern for people with disabilities. And I want to commend Senator Schimek and Senator Beutler for their concern, and they have always been supportive of ways that we can better provide a better lifestyle for people with disabilities, and I want to thank them for that. And I think, Senator Beutler, I think you've made the most compelling case for why we need LB 1083. We have been operating in this state for way, way too long without sufficient planning, without a plan, or a plan that we aren't able or willing to put into effect to deal with these very issues. I hope that what comes out of this for all of you is a sensitivity to the needs, however, of people with disabilities. Please don't allow yourselves to be pulled into a trap of building up walls again between us and people with disabilities who need us so badly. We need to continue to build bridges and, if anything, we have accentuated the things that need to be done. I am a personal believer, without having all of the facts but the facts just on the surface, think that this incident could and should have been avoided, and I think with the proper planning we can do that. I think we have been very