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

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also, I just...I'm not going to take a lot of time, because I don't think this is the time for a lot of discussion. We have discussed this, you know, at length before, but I want to refresh your memory as to the reason that I am trying to get support to override the Governor's decision to veto this. is...this is the portion of the community health department, money from the General Fund that helps support those five federally accredited health departments. Why do I really want to help those five federally accredited health departments? Two years ago, I think it was, when we passed LB 1083, the Mental Health Reform Act, what did we really want to do with that? We wanted to try to get to community-based health ... mental health services, and I'm very, very supportive of that. I think that's very, very important. But let's look at what it really takes to get people back into the communities in the mental health field, and the fact that they did close Hastings, and the fact that they are thinking about closing Norfolk. Where are these people supposed to go? They're going to go back to the communities. does it take in the community? What does it take in the community health department to take care of these people? takes a psychiatrist. And I'm going to give you the information from my own personal experience with my federally accredited community health department in Columbus. We have a psychiatrist hired there. We do not know how long we're going to be able to maintain and be able to afford that psychiatrist. This is the reason that I came forth and requested some money. We had hoped to get \$350,000 for each one of those community departments. That would really have helped in what we wanted to get done and accomplish with mental health reform. But if we don't get some subsidy for that, you know, this may not be able to happen. We may never be able to close Norfolk. It will just kind of go by the wayside. In a couple years we may say we're going to have to spend some more money to expand the rooms up there in Norfolk. We don't want this to happen. I don't want this to happen. I don't want this ever to happen. I want those people to be in the communities. This is why I put figure that hopefully we could get, but with the concerns of the Appropriations Committee, they did take that into consideration but they did cut it in half. I am agreeable to that half of it, and that would give each one of those five federally accredited health departments about \$175,000 a year, which will really help