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LETTER: Mental health

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Dear Editor: The commissioner of mental health recently submitted her resignation took so long for this to occur? The department it is laughable that the governor praised her state."

Throwing patients out into the community is not modernizing mental health practice. There will be growing numbers of individuals living on the streets and in the county jails throughout the state. Indeed, she has made "a lasting contribution in mental health services in Alabama"; however, those contributions were not in the best interest of many of the patients, especially those who are intellectually disabled.

It is my belief that there will be another lawsuit in the not-too-distant future that focuses on the care of those who are to be served by the Department of Mental Health. To use a phrase that is attributed to the late Judge Frank Johnson, the state cannot punt its responsibility away to unprepared communities that do not have the resources to provide the necessary care that is needed by so many. There will be a day of reckoning.

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