

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on Health and Human Services met at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, November 17, 2008, in Room 1510 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on gubernatorial appointments. Senators present: Joel Johnson, Chairperson; Tim Gay, Vice Chairperson; Philip Erdman; Tom Hansen; Gwen Howard; Dave Pankonin; and Arnie Stuthman. Senators absent: None.

[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: (Recorder malfunction)...today, November 17, 2008, to go through the gubernatorial appointments, and we have about 12 people listed here and I think we're going to get pretty close to that number. And if any of you needs to be at the head of the line please feel free to step up, otherwise we'll kind of go through the list as is, and I think we'll be done in probably about an hour here anyhow, so we won't keep you here all afternoon. At any rate, let's go ahead with the appointments to the...oh, excuse me. Let's start going around the table here. Senator Pankonin, do you want to introduce yourself and say where you're from. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANKONIN: Good afternoon. I'm Dave Pankonin from District 2, which is Cass County, Nebraska City, and the southern part of Sarpy County. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GAY: Tim Gay, District 14, which is Papillion-La Vista area.
[CONFIRMATION]

JEFF SANTEMA: Good afternoon. Jeff Santema. I serve as legal counsel to the committee. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: And I'm Senator Joel Johnson from Kearney. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Arnie Stuthman, District 22, which is Platte County and part of Colfax County. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Senator Gwen Howard from Omaha. That's District 9 which is pretty much right in the heart of Omaha. [CONFIRMATION]

ERIN MACK: I'm Erin Mack, the committee clerk. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: We never introduce you. Why don't you introduce yourself, young man. [CONFIRMATION]

MATT PEDERSON: I'm Matt Pederson. I'm a junior at the UNL and I'm from North Platte. [CONFIRMATION]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

SENATOR JOHNSON: All right. Oh, and we've got the new father. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: I've been a father before. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Well, not of a bouncing baby boy. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: There you go. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Why don't you introduce yourself. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Phil Erdman, representing the 47th Legislative District, and I'm shirking my other responsibilities in favor of your committee, Mr. Chairman. The Retirement Committee is still meeting. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: All right. Well, we are delighted that you're here. When was this baby born? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: September 28. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. So you're just kind of to the place where you're not getting a full night's rest, would that be accurate? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: I'm getting good sleep; so is he. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Tom, do you want to introduce yourself and say where you're from. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HANSEN: I'm Tom Hansen from District 42, the Lincoln County area. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: And with that, then let's go ahead with the State Board of Health candidates. I've got Eric Berggren on my list first, so Eric come on up and make yourself at home. And we look like kind of a formidable group but that's a facade, so relax and we're glad to have you here. [CONFIRMATION]

ERIC BERGGREN: Sure. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: As everybody comes up, would you come up, say your name, and then spell your name, as well, for the record. [CONFIRMATION]

ERIC BERGGREN: Okay. My name is Eric Berggren--Berggren is spelled B-e-r-g-g-r-e-n--appointed to the State Board of Health. [CONFIRMATION]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

SENATOR JOHNSON: Good. Do you want to tell us a little bit about yourself and how you got interested in this. [CONFIRMATION]

ERIC BERGGREN: Okay. Well, let's see. I was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, and my folks grew up in the Stromsburg, Nebraska, area, and then after I was born my dad took a job with Fisher Controls in Marshalltown, Iowa. Moved to Iowa; I grew up there. Came back here for school. Went to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and got a degree in biological systems engineering and have worked in the environmental water and wastewater engineering field ever since I graduated. I currently work at HDR in Omaha and specialize in drinking water treatment plant design and wastewater treatment plant design. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: All right. Do you want to say just a little bit about why you're interested in doing this. [CONFIRMATION]

ERIC BERGGREN: Well, in terms of public health I think that a foundation of public health is safe drinking water and good sanitation. You can tell, in terms of death rates and things like that, that once you started chlorinating water and taking care of sanitary issues, that was the hallmark or the big start in public health. And so that's my interest in public health. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Great. Any questions, anybody? Gwen. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just curious, I'm wondering what your viewpoint is on fluoridation in water, since you brought up water. [CONFIRMATION]

ERIC BERGGREN: Well, since I brought up water and fluoridation...fluoridation is definitely a good public health policy in terms of promoting good teeth, and it's something that can be added to the water. Many communities do it successfully and so I think it's a good thing for public health. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: All right. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Which of you two gentlemen raised your hand? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Johnson. Thank you, Eric, for being willing to serve on this board. This is the first time you've served on this board. This is not a reappointment. [CONFIRMATION]

ERIC BERGGREN: Yes, first time. [CONFIRMATION]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

SENATOR STUTHMAN: You stated you came from the Stromsburg. Did you come from the rural area? [CONFIRMATION]

ERIC BERGGREN: My folks grew up in Stromsburg. I actually grew up in Marshalltown, Iowa. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Oh, okay. Okay, but you didn't come from farming? [CONFIRMATION]

ERIC BERGGREN: No, not from a farm. No. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay. Okay, thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Any other questions around the table? Okay. Eric, thank you very much for coming. [CONFIRMATION]

ERIC BERGGREN: Do I need to fill this out? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Please, and let's just have you kind of step aside as you do that and we can proceed with Dr. Dan Bizzell. [CONFIRMATION]

DAN BIZZELL: I feel like I want to raise my hand. (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: (Laugh) Well, you don't have to do that. Relax and we're delighted that you're here. [CONFIRMATION]

DAN BIZZELL: Thank you, Dr. Johnson, Senator Johnson. I'm Dan Bizzell. I'm a clinical psychologist from Kearney, Nebraska, and I work at Mary Lanning Hospital in Hastings, Nebraska, and I guess you want to know a little bit about my history. I'm a transplant. I went the wrong way some people would say. I was born and raised in Florida and I came to Nebraska first in 1978. I moved away for a period of time and had the opportunity of working with all the prisoners of war from Vietnam for several years and then moved back to Nebraska. Initially, when I came to Nebraska, I was practicing in Lincoln, and then in Omaha, and then in York, then in Grand Island, and in Kearney, then in Hastings. I don't know whether I have bad breath or just like to move around but I keep going west it seems anyway. Notwithstanding that, I received my doctor's degree in counseling and educational psychology at Mississippi State University. Subsequent to that I taught at several universities and practiced in Arizona and in Florida. Originally, as I said, I came to Nebraska in 1978. I particularly was interested in being a member of a board. I have been a member of the Psychology Board and the chair of the Psychology Board for several years. And I was particularly interested because the difficulty, as I see it, in balance between providing professional services, particularly in the mental health arena, and access to care, considering the diversity of our state in terms of people but

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

also in terms of proximity and expectations and so forth. And I think it's really a challenge, particularly for you, but for us too to be able to provide those appropriate services and not discount the needs of others but at the same time require that people have at least a minimal standard of services regardless of whether they live in Weeping Water or Lincoln. So those are some of my concerns and that's why I want to be a part of this. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Any questions? Yes, Senator Pankonin. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANKONIN: Doctor, we just had recently some hearings here and meetings on behavioral health, and so I really appreciate the fact that, with your experience and background, that you're involved with this group, and that background is important. And we know we have needs in this area, and as you mentioned, not only diversity of population but distance and some concerns for folks having access to care, so I appreciate your service and I think it's very important. [CONFIRMATION]

DAN BIZZELL: Thank you, Senator Pankonin. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Anyone else? I've got a question. Did you take care of John McCain? [CONFIRMATION]

DAN BIZZELL: I did. Yes, he flew every year to see me. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Oh, great. Quite an experience and... [CONFIRMATION]

DAN BIZZELL: It's the greatest personal experience I've ever had. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: I would think so. [CONFIRMATION]

DAN BIZZELL: There were several people that ended up being senators and congressmen and, yep, I was lucky. I just happened to be in the right place at the right time. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Well, I was kind of curious about that because I had the great experience of one of my chiefs along the way was on the Bataan Death March and a prisoner of the Japanese for three and a half years, so he has done a great service to me after he came back, and I'm actually going to a dinner tonight to honor him, as a matter of fact. [CONFIRMATION]

DAN BIZZELL: Dr. Johnson, it was my privilege also...I worked for the Veterans Administration in Lincoln, Omaha, and Grand Island for 25 years, so next to the prisoner of war experience I would say that was the most rewarding experience I had, and I learned a lot about a lot of men that did a lot of stuff for us. [CONFIRMATION]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. Any other questions around the table? Well, thank you very much. We appreciate your willingness to serve on the board. [CONFIRMATION]

DAN BIZZELL: Thank you for having me. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Dr. Theodore Evans Jr. Okay, Jeff, do we have any word? Senator Heidemann is tied up. Yes, I've got a note right up here and so we'll just skip over that until the senator shows up. And next then is Kenneth Kester. Kenneth, welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

KENNETH KESTER: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Do you want to spell your name and all that kind of stuff. [CONFIRMATION]

KENNETH KESTER: Sure. It's Ken Kester, K-e-s-t-e-r. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Where are you from, Ken? [CONFIRMATION]

KENNETH KESTER: I grew up in...well, I graduated from Cambridge High School. I actually grew up about 15 miles from there in Frontier County, meaning Stockville is the county seat where I grew up. I grew up on a farm where my dad still grows corn and wheat and soybeans. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: People around this table ought to know a little bit about Stockville. I know quite a bit about it but tell them about it, because it's... [CONFIRMATION]

KENNETH KESTER: Stockville, as I understand it, was the last county seat in the country to have a gravel road on Main Street driving up to the county seat. I like to tell my daughter how it took me three times to get my school permit when I was 14 years old--that was a little while ago. But if you lived around there, driving on a gravel road wasn't a big problem. That was all we had. But I went to school in Cambridge, which is the big town of 1,000, like I said about 15 miles away in Furnas County. I went to college at Doane here in Crete, nearby. I got a bachelor's degree there. I then went to...I'm a pharmacist. I went to the UNMC College of Pharmacy. After graduating from there I spent a year in Chicago. It was a good year to be in Chicago. It was the year the Bears won the Super Bowl, and we had a little bit of a down year which back in those days meant we were 9 and 3, so it was a fun time to be there. But other than that year I've lived my whole life in Nebraska. I moved from there to Lincoln in 1986 and I've been here ever since. I spent most of my career at BryanLGH Medical Center. I've been mostly a hospital pharmacist although I do have some retail experience. I then went to

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

law school, actually from '97 to 2000, and practiced law with a firm here in Lincoln for a couple years before jumping back into the pharmacy world. And I have, for the last five and a half years, been the director of pharmacy at Nebraska Heart Hospital in the southwest corner of town. I guess I would say my professional...as a pharmacist, my professional area of greatest professional interest is in medication safety, and more generally in medical safety, and those are issues I pay a lot of attention to as a director and also as a professional in the Nebraska Pharmacists Association and also the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. And when the opportunity arose to replace Sam Augustine, who resigned his position with the board because he was elected as president of NPA, I thought this would be a good opportunity to have some involvement at a higher level and a more broad level than I've had thus far.

[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Well, personally I think that you're one of the more important appointees at this time because this is an area that we really need to emphasize, because it is a place where, with good electronics and so on, that we can improve the safety a considerable amount. So you're at a good time to do good things.

[CONFIRMATION]

KENNETH KESTER: We have some opportunities to do some good things, as you said, to improve safety. With each of those opportunities, and I've been involved in implementing some already, there are...every time something like that comes up there are always new ways to screw up, too, if you will, and so you have to be thinking ahead of what the ramifications are and what the unintended consequences area. But yes, it's an exciting time where we have some help that wasn't available ten years ago.

[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Very good. Any questions? Yes, Senator Hansen.

[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HANSEN: Thank you, Senator Johnson. It's good to have you here today.

[CONFIRMATION]

KENNETH KESTER: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HANSEN: I live just a little further north than Stockville in Lincoln County. I have a question about your rural background and maybe you can help us deliver some of the answers to this question, and it would be a question about telehealth, where we can have possibly a doctor do a visit, do an examination of someone from afar, but still we don't have telepharmacies. [CONFIRMATION]

KENNETH KESTER: As a matter of fact we do. [CONFIRMATION]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

SENATOR HANSEN: We do. [CONFIRMATION]

KENNETH KESTER: We do, and the last time I was here it was a couple years ago, because we were...well, it was on behalf of Nebraska Pharmacists Association. I should say there is not a lot of activity in that area yet but there is some. At Nebraska Heart Hospital we actually began a program a couple years ago where we, working with hospitals--this is the hospital pharmacy world--but where we provide night and weekend services for some critical access hospitals and one larger hospital around the state. And the way that works is we've hired pharmacies who take care of our hospital overnight but they also monitor orders for these other hospitals. So it's a new area. It's going to be a big help in this state where you have, what is there, 65 I think, 55 or 65 critical access hospitals where there is just not the money to have overnight pharmacy coverage. But because of the technology that's available now, we can share in the cost and one pharmacist can watch quite a few hospitals, if they're smaller hospitals, at night. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HANSEN: Well, we certainly need that in a rural part of Nebraska because the population is low but the miles are great. And if we have a doctor with a diagnosis, we still have to go from Stockville to North Platte to get that prescription filled, so it would be... [CONFIRMATION]

KENNETH KESTER: Yeah. In the retail world, and by that I mean where you actually go pick up a prescription, it's not there yet and there's a lot more...we're working on it. NPA is working on it. But there are a lot more hurdles than in the hospital world where basically what you do, whether you're in the hospital or whether you're somewhere else, it's essentially the same thing. The order comes on a computer, you enter the order on a computer, and the patient information is all available there. In the retail world there are some other things we have to work out but I think we will. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HANSEN: Okay. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GAY: I see on the telepharmacy, you've worked quite a bit on that. So is it being well-accepted though as far as...how do you get acceptance on any of these telehealth things, because I've heard on other, you know, whether it be mental health or a lot of these issues, that we have the ability to do it but yet it's still not being done. Is there resistance or how can we better promote these kind of things? [CONFIRMATION]

KENNETH KESTER: I don't think it's resistance as much as it is education or just awareness that it's available. When I first started talking to people about doing this about four years ago--and just to throw out a term, you ask them if they have VPN, and they go, what's that? It's virtual private network and it's a way to get in from a computer anywhere into the network where you need the help. And I liken it to...and I don't want to go on and on here, but I remember my first fax about 20 years ago and somebody

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

explained to me what a fax was, and it's paper that goes over the phone--how in the world does that work? But then all of a sudden it was available and everybody knew about it, and that's kind of what's happened with VPN. Five years ago it seemed a bit esoteric. Now everybody has it. So five years ago, four years ago, people just didn't even think about the possibility of a service like that. Now they do. And so I think with education--and as I say, it's cost-effective--I think a lot of people will jump on it. That's been my experience. It's been the hospitals that have wanted to do it are the hospitals that have thought about it. A lot of them just haven't thought about it. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GAY: How do we get them to think about it more? [CONFIRMATION]

KENNETH KESTER: I think publicize the efforts, bringing it up at Nebraska Hospital Association meetings and places like that. Which, frankly...I mean, again from our part, we work with seven hospitals and we were full. We really couldn't handle any more so we weren't marketing. We're actually thinking about expanding our services now and will somewhat. The University of Nebraska Medical Center also has a sort of a similar service and they've, frankly, marketed more than we have. So I think word is getting out now. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GAY: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Gwen. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a question so much as a concern that I'd just like to share with you since we have this opportunity, and that's regarding the use of behavioral-altering medications--the psychotropic drugs for children and adolescents and especially children that come in to the state wardship system. I don't know if you've seen this or have experienced it, but when I was a case manager for Health and Human Services it seemed that every child that came in that had any sort of behavior problem was given a prescription and put on probably more than one of these medications. I just have deep concerns about that and the long-range effects of that sort of thing. [CONFIRMATION]

KENNETH KESTER: I don't disagree. I will say, I work...my primary employment right now is with Nebraska Heart Hospital, which takes care of adult hearts, so I don't have a lot of personal experience in that regard. I read a lot and again I'm pretty involved with Nebraska Pharmacists Association where we hear about things like that. And I agree...you know, in my view--it's not really an original thought--but that sort of thing should be a last resort. I've seen two extremes. One is where they dole out the prescriptions kind of willy-nilly; the other is that it should never ever be used, ever in any situation. And I don't really agree with either one but we have to be very prudent who gets it. And you're right, we need to be thinking about what's going to happen 20 years down the road and, frankly, we don't really know, because a lot of these drugs aren't old

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

enough to have that length of experience. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Right. And the additional problem is the monitoring, when a child moves from home to home and different medications are prescribed by different individuals and there's not really the monitoring in place. I appreciate that you are aware and are monitoring that. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. I don't see anyone. Thank you very much, sir. [CONFIRMATION]

KENNETH KESTER: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, there's the good Senator Heidemann to...you've got other duties. Why don't you come on up and we'll just put you in right now. Senator Lavon Heidemann. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Thank you, Senator Johnson, members of the Health and Human Services Committee. I am Senator Lavon Heidemann, spelled H-e-i-d-e-m-a-n-n, and I represent District 1 in the southeast corner of the state. I'm here today on behalf of Dr. Theodore Evans who was unable to attend today's hearing. Doc Evans has been recommended for the appointment to the State Health Board--the State Board of Health, excuse me. For almost 40 years, Dr. Evans has been the owner of the Tecumseh Animal Clinic in Tecumseh, Nebraska, and Adams Animal Care in Adams, Nebraska. Prior to that he served as the U.S. Air Force veterinarian on Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Oklahoma. He is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, as well as the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association, serving as the president of the latter. In 2001, he also served as a member of the Foot and Mouth Task Force in the United Kingdom, where he provided 30 days of service to assist with the eradication of foot and mouth disease. Dr. Evans was named the Nebraska Veterinarian of the Year in 1997. In addition to his very notable years of service in the veterinary field, Doc Evans is also a member of the church board and Tecumseh planning commission. He serves as the president of the Tecumseh Chamber of Commerce and served as the school board president for almost 20 years. I've known Doc Evans since I was a child and highly recommend him for the State Board of Health. His knowledge in the health field, his exceptional work ethic, his leadership capabilities will certainly prove beneficial to the board. If you have any questions I can try and answer them. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Uh-oh. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: I knew it would be Phil. (Laugh) [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator Erdman. [CONFIRMATION]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

SENATOR ERDMAN: Lavon, it just struck me why he is not here. It's not because of other reasons. It's because if he came here and he's known you since a kid, we would get information about you that you don't want us to have. (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Did you even let him know what date he was supposed to be here? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Yes. He actually had planned a trip out of town quite some time before. I will say I have known Doc Evans all my life and he is an outstanding citizen. He's done my vet work for so many years, and through the years as we're working on cattle or whatever, we had him there, we would argue about politics. So we have a little bit in common. (Laugh) [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: All right. Oh, there we go. Tom. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HANSEN: Thank you. Senator Heidemann, on the bio page it looks like Dr. Evans is on the Livestock Emergency Development System Group, so he's a member. Will he be able to serve on that group and serve on the Board of Health? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: That was something I would have to look into. I'm not aware, one way or the other, what would happen there. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HANSEN: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GAY: Joel, I've got one. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Sure, go ahead. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GAY: Well, I don't have...just pass on to the doctor, thank him for his service...but just while you're here and everyone else is still here while we're doing these confirmations, I'll just say it once, for brevity, that I appreciate all the service that goes into these boards. You know, we go and we confirm everybody, but then all the hard work goes on. But pass on my thanks, I guess, along the way, and I just wanted to get that out of the way while some of you are still here because I know you're going to be leaving when we're done. But tell him thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Tim, you're absolutely right. We have a little fun while we're here, as you can see, and so on, but don't mistake our brief lapses of levity here because you really do do a great job and it is important and keep doing a good job. So with that, any other questions? [CONFIRMATION]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Thank you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: You bet. Thank you. All right. Dr. Paul Salansky.
[CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY: Good afternoon. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Welcome, sir. Welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY: Thank you. I'm Paul Salansky and that's spelled S-a-l-a-n-s-k-y and I'm from Nebraska City, an optometrist. (Inaudible) Senator Pankonin's district. I'm a transplant also. I was born in Pennsylvania; moved to the Midwest at about age 3 or so, about that age; and lived in Iowa and Illinois. Went to college in Illinois, went to graduate school at Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago, and there I made an acquaintance or friendship with several guys from Nebraska and they convinced me that this was the best place to live. So I've been here a little over 30 years now. I came in 1977. I have a private practice in Nebraska City and also a satellite clinic in Syracuse. I've been involved in my Optometric Association and served in all the chairs and as president there. I've been on the Board of Health now for...this is my third year. I was appointed to fulfil a partial term and I'm here for a reappointment. I've learned a lot. It's been a real learning experience, a very good one, and it's something I'd like to continue on with, definitely. It's been very interesting and I'm glad I have a chance to represent my profession, but it's also...it's just been a great opportunity and a privilege to get to know other providers, and I think that's an important aspect of the Board of Health is to provide the citizens with good healthcare and have cooperation between all of the professions. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yeah, there you go. Sure. Senator Pankonin.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANKONIN: Doctor, thanks for coming and thanks for serving. And to let the committee know, the good doctor is a valued member of the Nebraska City community and we appreciate your service not only here on the State Board of Health but in that community, as well, both professionally and all the activities. Thank you.
[CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Well, one of the things about it is that, you know, the licensure, regardless of these various professions, the Nebraska licensure is well-thought-of in other states, and you guys are, in large part, responsible for that. So that should be stated in the record, as well, because it certainly is true, so thank you very much. Okay, John--and I'm going to have a tough time pronouncing this one. Tenny, is that right?

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

[CONFIRMATION]

JOHN TENNITY: Tennity. It's like Kennedy without the money. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: All right. Anyhow, welcome sir. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN TENNITY: Thank you very much. Dr. John Tennity, I'm a podiatrist here in Lincoln, Nebraska. Originally a transplant also from Rochester, New York. Undergraduate degree in Rochester Institute of Technology, a podiatry degree in the Chicago School of Podiatry, and a foot and ankle surgical residency in Chicago also. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Better have you spell your name since we made fun of it. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN TENNITY: Oh, sure. T-e-n-n-i-t-y. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN TENNITY: I've been practicing here. My wife is also a podiatrist here in Lincoln and we've been here for 15 years now. Took over a practice, Dr. Bill Rapp that had been here 40 years, so Capital Foot Center has been here a very long time. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. What do you do besides a podiatrist? [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN TENNITY: I do way too much, my wife tells me. I like to hunt and fish. I like to do a little astronomy and things like that, so we kind of keep ourselves busy on the outside. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. What happened in astronomy in the last week or so? [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN TENNITY: Probably the biggest thing is if you look in the western sky just about evening you can see Jupiter and Venus very close together. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: There's bigger news than that. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN TENNITY: Outside the meteor shower? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN TENNITY: Tell me more. Astrology or astronomy? [CONFIRMATION]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

SENATOR JOHNSON: Astronomy. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN TENNITY: Tell me more. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. Ah-ha. They have visually sighted a planet or two in another universe. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN TENNITY: Yeah, I think they said four if I'm not mistaken. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: I didn't see anything. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: I don't think it's another universe. I think we're all in the same universe. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Well, I guess that's the wrong... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANKONIN: Another solar system. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yeah, another solar system is a better word to use. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Some of us live in an alternative universe but... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: (Laugh) Yeah, some of us do. Anyhow...it's just nice to be able to one-up you anyhow. But one...this is the thing...we've had all these people here had Chicago connections, and we should have found out how many of you are Cubs fans as opposed to White Sox because that's going to make a difference in how well you guys do. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN TENNITY: Boy, I did spend some time in Wrigley. You know, when I lived in Chicago I lived in Wrigleyville, so just by osmosis I kind of became a Cubs fan. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: You said the right thing. (Laugh) Senator Erdman. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Just for the record, Platte Center is a black hole just for (inaudible). (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: At least it's noticeable. [CONFIRMATION]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

SENATOR ERDMAN: Do you know Mark Willats? [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN TENNITY: I do. I know Mark very well. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. When you had the Chicago connection in there and podiatry and... [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN TENNITY: Yep. Mark was a year behind me in school, yeah, so we've battled many times on the flag football field in Lincoln Park in Chicago. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Very good. Well, Mark still battles on the football field on Friday nights as a part of our officiating crew, so I get to work with him and learn about some of the issues firsthand from him and so appreciated his relationship. And I'm sure if you're acquainted with him and a lot of the same issues, and I probably had conversations with him about it, probably come up in your organization. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN TENNITY: Absolutely. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. Any other questions or comments around the table? I see none. Thank you very much, sir. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN TENNITY: Thank you very much. I'm going to apologize in advance. The three of us have a Board of Health meeting right now, so (inaudible). [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. You bet. Thanks again. All right. That takes care of the State Board of Health on my list and thank you all very much for appearing and serving. I mean that very sincerely. It does make a big difference. Let's go on to the Board of Emergency Medical Services. Judith Henning. [CONFIRMATION]

JUDY HENNING: Hello. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: It's nice to have you with us. [CONFIRMATION]

JUDY HENNING: Thank you. I'm Judy Henning, H-e-n-n-i-n-g. I'm from Crete, the 32nd Legislative District--actually District 3 in Nebraska which we're still getting used to since Saline County is, within the last 6-7 years, in the Third District instead of the Second District. Yes, I first became interested in emergency medical services because my husband was an EMT for many, many years, along with firefighter and fire chief before his death last year. In fact, his license is still on the Web site because it's still current at number 300, so it's been a long time. After that I was also an EMT at a meatpacking plant at Farmland where I worked as a quality assurance inspector. Just in the plant

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

scenario we did not transport, but it was about 2,000 employees so there were a lot of people that would get sick and become injured, and we would package them up, so to speak, for the rescue squad to come and get them. I was also a city councilmember for 12 years and mayor for 8 years, of Crete. So there's kind of the administrative side of it all that you see and have to deal with, too, along with the family side, the provider side, the administrative side, and trying to make it all work, and seeing the problems that the small communities are having and the outstate small communities are having, where...you know, we have Star Care here so we're very lucky in the small towns in this area for all being able to provide and continue to provide service for people to the fullest extent that they deserve. That's kind of a Catch-22 to make sure that everyone is safely and adequately provided for while still finding people to provide for them. I guess I'm also on the Board of Public Health Solutions, just the Board of Health for a five-county area, so there's a little overlap there, so I guess I come at this hopefully with a lot of different perspectives. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: You are far too modest. I see you raised seven children. [CONFIRMATION]

JUDY HENNING: Did that too. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANKONIN: Did you notice the crisis intervention? (Laughter)
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Dave, I thought the same thing. [CONFIRMATION]

JUDY HENNING: That's true. Crisis intervention. My oldest daughter is a PA in a small town in South Dakota with a small hospital, so you get a little perspective from her, what she deals with up there too. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Well, Crete happens to be, I think, kind of a neat little town. In fact, I took the good Senator Hansen on a tour of it here when we were in the neighborhood a year or two ago. You've got a great college there and everything, and it's...I don't think that you're that far away. You're in kind of a nice place. You're...
[CONFIRMATION]

JUDY HENNING: We're in a good place. We have the small town, the agricultural roots, and all the things that Lincoln has to offer with the cultural and shopping.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

JUDY HENNING: Of course, we have Doane. I guess I am a graduate of Doane College so I should put in a plug for them also, and they bring a lot to us as a small community. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: I think they do too. Any questions? Yes, Senator Hansen. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HANSEN: I do have a question. Thank you for coming today and I subsequently took my wife on a tour of Doane College later this summer and found, at some arbor, there was a lot of bricks of donors, and she has a part of her family were Doane graduates. My question to you is the EMTs, how do we get back to getting volunteers to go through the EMT training? And you can go into why we need that much training if you would like. [CONFIRMATION]

JUDY HENNING: Well, that's kind of the Catch-22, you know. You need the training, and being on a team that had both first responders and EMTs on it, along with EMTs such as myself that were not associated with a department so to speak and some that were associated with a department, and they (inaudible) first responders that didn't have the same level of training. In that small scenario, the first responders actually did just as well as the EMTs did but that's up to a person, I guess, you know--a person's own ambition and what they want to learn and what they want to tackle and do. I think the hours involved and the national tests that most do or most are required to take now, scares them off. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: What...when your husband first became an EMT, how many hours of training was there? Seventy kind of sticks in my head. [CONFIRMATION]

JUDY HENNING: I'm thinking 80, 81. Maybe it was 70. I'm not sure. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: And how many is it now? [CONFIRMATION]

JUDY HENNING: About 120, 130. My hours were in between there. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: How many hours does it take to get a master's degree? [CONFIRMATION]

JUDY HENNING: Two more years. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Half of what your undergrad is. [CONFIRMATION]

JUDY HENNING: Sixty. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Yeah. Sixty. [CONFIRMATION]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

SENATOR JOHNSON: Well, I think it's kind of interesting. It takes more hours to get an EMT certificate than a master's degree. [CONFIRMATION]

JUDY HENNING: But it's a...I guess from own experience I've found that attending the weekend, even a week, would be, hourwise, would be pretty good when you're immersed in it. Is you bring home just as much from something like that as the continued (inaudible). You might not get the hands-on like you do with the weekly or biweekly training, but it's just something to explore, I think, as to what we're going to do. Because everybody is so, excuse me, liability worried these days, that you have to train more and train more and train more and document and document, and that scares them off too. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HANSEN: Well, thank you, and thank you for your willingness to serve. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yeah, I think again you're to be complimented, all of you, particularly I think this group because they're in it every day out there and it makes a difference. [CONFIRMATION]

JUDY HENNING: Our rescue people respond to over 500 calls a year. That's in a town of just over 6,000 in the rural area around. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Well, I want to challenge all of you in this group here to think how we can preserve this system and make it better, because it's getting harder and harder to come by EMTs, and how can we attract people to keep them doing this extremely valuable service. So let's work on this during your tenure, if you can. [CONFIRMATION]

JUDY HENNING: Sounds good to me. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

JUDY HENNING: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: All right. Donald Harmon. Hi, Donald. Welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: Good afternoon. My name is Donald or Don Harmon, H-a-r-m-o-n. I'm currently a physician assistant in the Rural Health Clinic in Wymore, Nebraska, and have been there for about 12 years. I've been a PA in Nebraska for 30 years with

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

previous service at UNL Student Health and BSDC. I was raised in Wichita. Went through the University of Kansas and did my PA training at the University of Iowa. I kind of moved here for employment. I became interested, particularly in EMS services, as my patients in Wymore need EMS to take them, urgently or emergently, to the Beatrice Hospital. And it occurred to me that if those people are not there to help us in the clinic, then my patients are not going to be receiving the best care that they deserve. I'm also currently serving as chairman of the Gage County EMS advisory committee, which is a committee formed by the board of supervisors to review EMS services in Gage County. That is what motivates me and what brought me here, and I thank you for your consideration. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Any questions around the table? I don't see any. I feel obligated to ask you one. Who won the Heisman Trophy in 1940? [CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: 1940. That was probably a Jayhawker. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: No, nobody from Kansas ever won the Heisman. [CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: Not the Heisman. You're right. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Tommy Harmon. [CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: Oh, Tom Harmon. Yes. From Michigan. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: All right. With that brilliant exhibition we better let you go. Again, thank you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: Thank you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: And again, let me challenge all of you to make sure that we do work on this. This is, I think, becoming a critical issue around the state of Nebraska, and we've got to find some way of keeping good people on board. [CONFIRMATION]

DONALD HARMON: Okay. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Timothy Hoffman. [CONFIRMATION]

TIM HOFFMAN: Good afternoon. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Welcome, Timothy. Where are you from? [CONFIRMATION]

TIM HOFFMAN: Tim Hoffman, last name H-o-f-f-m-a-n. I am currently...I reside in

Kearney, Nebraska. I was born and raised in Doniphan, a farming community. My parents farmed. They still farm. I actually got into EMS on accident. I became a first responder just to know a little bit of something because I was going to farm, my life, and just in case something happened. In a rural community it takes awhile for the ambulance to get there. I wanted to know what I could do in case of an emergency. Once I became a first responder and decided I liked it, so why not become an EMT and volunteer for the rural department that I lived in. So I became a EMT and decided, you know, this might be...this isn't too bad, let's try it instead of farming, so I became a paramedic. I worked at Rural Metro in Hastings, Nebraska. I worked there...I started out a regular paramedic, shift paramedic; then I became a paramedic supervisor. I worked there for about nine and a half years. I am currently the EMS manager for Good Samaritan Hospital. I've been there for about two years. In May I'll be there for two years. I agree with Senator Johnson that EMS right now is kind of in a critical juncture. We're having a difficult time finding volunteers to work for our departments, but yet with the new national standards that are coming down we're going to increase class time. When I went through my EMT class, it was 90 hours, and now it's going to be right around 150-170, depending on how much we decide to keep for hourwise. I agree, some of the stuff we do need to keep in it because of since September 11 with the federal regulations with EMS, with the hazmat, with the NIMS training, the National Incident Management System training, I believe that does need to be taught. But I think there's better opportunities out there to try to figure out better ways to recruit. I think partnerships between communities, it should be easier for an EMT that works in one community and lives in another to be able to cross the border, so to say, and to be able to freely work with the one ambulance service if they are in the town working and if they'll allow it off. Because there are communities out there, that they live in one small community and then they go to work in another, and that town doesn't have EMTs during the day. Well, you have these EMTs working for other services, why not allow them to work for the ambulance service in that community and then just have some more partnerships. So I've been interested on the EMS board for quite some years. This is not the first time I've applied for a position for the EMS board, but I do look forward to working on the EMS board. And with the new standards that are coming out I think this is an exciting moment for emergency services in Nebraska and on the federal level.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator Gay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GAY: You talked about that training, and we all know it's being increased tremendously and more pressures, but what do you think the main problem that we're going to have to deal with, training being one of them I suppose, but why people don't want to get into that business. Is it because of liability, training, time? What do you think from what you're...you're a young guy, kind of... [CONFIRMATION]

TIM HOFFMAN: Honestly, I think that the volunteer bug with my generation has

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

changed, with anybody of my generation and the latter, and I've seen that with interviewing people for a job. People that are older than me, usually it's what I can bring into a department, and the young ones it's what can I get out of the department. And to me I think that's part of our fundamental volunteer population, is dwindling down because...and I don't know if it's...I don't know exactly the perfect answer for it but I think we just don't want to volunteer as much as we used to. You know, we are being pulled so many different directions, and that volunteer part of it, it just becomes harder and harder. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GAY: That's a good answer because you heard about this tremendous requirement. I mean, this isn't just like any volunteer, but it's kind of interesting what's going to allure...you talked about how do you get young people involved in this, and I know that has to be a challenge and we need to find ways to do that. [CONFIRMATION]

TIM HOFFMAN: I am really supportive of trying to, in some of these rural communities, is have an EMS class as part of a senior health class, so when they get out of...when they graduate out of school they're an EMT, and if they go to...there's a lot of people... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GAY: In high school. [CONFIRMATION]

TIM HOFFMAN: Our Lieutenant Governor, he went through college and he paid for his college as being an EMT for...at that time it was Eastern Ambulance in Hastings and in Lincoln. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GAY: So you're talking about a high school program for seniors or juniors. [CONFIRMATION]

TIM HOFFMAN: As long as... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GAY: They don't have anything like that now? [CONFIRMATION]

TIM HOFFMAN: Well, there are in some communities, they do have it. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GAY: It's a good idea. [CONFIRMATION]

TIM HOFFMAN: But I really support promoting that. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GAY: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Good suggestion. [CONFIRMATION]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Senator Johnson. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Our good senator from Platte...what was it? Platte Center.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you. Tim, thank you for coming here. The thing that always concerns me in the rural areas with the amount of hours that's increased for the EMTs. And in a lot of those rural areas, you know, they're almost lucky that they have first responders, and if there's a situation where there's no EMT and there's only first responders, their hands are pretty well tied and that's a real situation. We have a lot of the EMTs, you know, work 50 miles away from their residence, and yes, they are an EMT in that little rural residence, but when the need is there during the day they're in another area working and there's only a couple first responders. I think it's a situation we really have to take a serious look at, is do you provide a minimal service for an emergency with a first responders, get them some education and not have to sit there and let the helpless person wait for an EMT. [CONFIRMATION]

TIM HOFFMAN: I agree. And on that same aspect, I agree that we don't want to have the community underserved, but we also don't want to...we also have to be very careful how we structure that because we also don't want to step backwards. But I do agree that there may be some middle ground that we might be able to have an idea about and be able to accomplish something to help out these rural departments.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Because it's going to get worse before it gets better, in my opinion. [CONFIRMATION]

TIM HOFFMAN: With the new standards. Right now, like I said, is a very exciting time. We're rewriting the books on emergency medical services but we're also in a very dire time when it comes to volunteer services. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: And in a lot of these small communities it's the elderly people that are living there yet, so... [CONFIRMATION]

TIM HOFFMAN: Um-hum. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Something kind of popped into my head as we've been talking about this, because I think this is a serious problem, and so on, and for a lot of the reasons that we've talked about. But I guess one of the things that comes to mind is this, is that several years ago I was on a national committee of fellow surgeons and so on, and most of the people that were on that committee were from San Francisco,

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

Chicago, Boston, and places like this, and they didn't have a clue that there wasn't this type of person available between Lincoln and Denver, you know, like staffed emergency rooms and so on. And so I guess I wonder, is this the same kind of group that's meeting that is putting together all these standards and just don't get it as far as...it would be something probably worthwhile to look into and see just what kind of people are making these decisions, because they are just not realistic, in my opinion, at all.

[CONFIRMATION]

TIM HOFFMAN: And if you do look on national associations, like even the American Association of Ambulance Services and other national committees, it's primarily East Coast. Primarily all of the members and all the representation is East Coast. And the joke about Nebraska ends just past Lincoln to the west, it's almost the same with EMS and in other areas too. The United States pretty much ends at the Mississippi River sometimes when it comes to those national committees, and better representation at the national level would help out with some of the rural departments. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: The original head of the committee of the Department of Transportation that started the EMTs, by the way, was from Sargent, Nebraska, originally. [CONFIRMATION]

TIM HOFFMAN: Um-hum. The state of Nebraska has always been in the forefront of EMS. We have been. We have been a leader for almost since its conception.

[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: But with that guy growing up in Sargent, I guess I kind of wonder if he didn't get us off on the right foot and now we're going the other way. Senator Erdman. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: I just wanted to give you some good news. The bridge to western Nebraska that was under construction here just on the other side of Ninth Street, I hear is now open now so you can get to western Nebraska. (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

TIM HOFFMAN: Awesome. (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: And if you keep driving 400 miles past that, you'll get to my house. (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Very good. Well, thank you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

TIM HOFFMAN: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: It's been a nice discussion with you and I guess I wonder if maybe there isn't a political solution to some of our problems, as well, so maybe we

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

ought to look into that a little more deeply. Thank you again. [CONFIRMATION]

TIM HOFFMAN: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. I believe that we have Matt sitting back here someplace. Matt, sorry to keep you waiting and thank you for coming in. This is from Speaker Flood's office and we're going to talk about Dr. George Surber. Matt, thanks.
[CONFIRMATION]

MATT BOEVER: Thanks, Chairman Johnson and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. Dr. Surber asked Senator Flood to read in this statement. Senator Flood is at the Judiciary Committee hearing so he asked me to read the statement.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Matt, spell your last name for the record, would you.
[CONFIRMATION]

MATT BOEVER: It's Boever and that B-o-e-v-e-r. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

MATT BOEVER: So this letter is from Dr. Surber. I've been active in prehospital medicine, i.e. emergency medical services, since 1976. I joined the 401A and 401B councils when they were first formed in Nebraska. We did not have paramedics in northeast Nebraska at that time so we did not have the 401C council. In 1978 I was honored to be asked to serve on the initial Advanced Emergency Medical Care Board and served there until 1988 when business pressures forced me to resign. I served as chairman of that board from 1983 to 1984. I was honored to be asked to serve on the two pretrauma committee boards through the 1990s, and there helped to write the regulations for the formation of the trauma committee. In 2002, I believe, I applied to join the Emergency Medical Services Board and have served the state of Nebraska on this board since. I've been and am active with eight different EMS service programs. The first was Norfolk Fire Department with whom I started as city physician in 1976. The second was Madison Rescue Squad in 1977. These service programs include the EMS service programs in Battle Creek, Madison, Stanton, Hoskins-Woodland Park, Nucor quick response team, Norfolk Fire and Norfolk Ambulance. I've been medical director for the Northeast Community College EMS training program for many years. I am a practicing physician in Norfolk, Nebraska, serving since 1975, specializing in family practice and occupational medicine, being fully boarded in both areas. I have been on the hospital staffs and now staff of the Norfolk hospitals, continuously since 1975. It has been my privilege to use my skills to enhance the safety and health of the citizens of northeast Nebraska. My services in EMS has furthered my opportunities to make differences in the lives of the citizens of northeast Nebraska. My service on the EMS

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

board has greatly improved my abilities to assist the EMS programs in northeast Nebraska, perform their duties of prehospital medicine, saving lives and limbs and initiating care for diseases and trauma. I am now applying to continuing to serve the citizens of Nebraska as the physician member from the First District on the Emergency Medical Services Board for another three years. Please approve me for this position. Thank you for your consideration. And it's signed, George Tom Surber, M.D.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you. I suspect...oh, we do have a question.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: So the Speaker thought that it would be in his constituents' best interest to send you here to represent his constituents, and him to go present the bill before the Judiciary Committee? [CONFIRMATION]

MATT BOEVER: That's right. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: What do you think of that analysis? Do you think that's acceptable? [CONFIRMATION]

MATT BOEVER: I don't usually...well... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: You're on the record. (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Because he's not here to check on you, I thought I would see if I could get a little recon. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: But the record is going to be. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: I'm just... [CONFIRMATION]

MATT BOEVER: No, I'm not questioning his judgment on this one. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. But you wouldn't consider this to be your safe haven, then would you? [CONFIRMATION]

MATT BOEVER: Yeah, not for a few more months, I guess. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. All right. You did a good job. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: (Laugh) Matt, thanks a lot. [CONFIRMATION]

MATT BOEVER: Sure. [CONFIRMATION]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

SENATOR JOHNSON: All right. That takes care of the Board of Emergency Medical Services. I think we've been meeting too long here, Jeff. We're getting a little goofy. However, Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board. Jennie Cole-Mossman. Do you dare come up, Jennie? [CONFIRMATION]

JENNIE COLE-MOSSMAN: I dare. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay, great. Glad to have you. [CONFIRMATION]

JENNIE COLE-MOSSMAN: Jennie, J-e-n-n-i-e, and the last name is hyphenated, C-o-l-e hyphen M-o-s-s-m-a-n. I'm here for a reappointment to the Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board. I am a mother of three adopted children, ages 4, 3, and 2. My husband Steve and I received the congressional Angels in Adoption award last year. We were foster parents and continue to care for our foster daughter even though the case is closed. We've done that for about three years now. We've become her godparents and we have her on the weekend. I have been a member of the Juvenile Court Nominating Commission. I'm currently a member of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice and I've been a therapist for ten years here in Lincoln. And I'm the current Fund Board chair. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. I don't know what to ask you. [CONFIRMATION]

JENNIE COLE-MOSSMAN: I can tell you what the Fund Board is. I brought my notes so if you'd like to know. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator Gay. He's got a question right on his lips there, and... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GAY: No, go ahead and I'll wait. Go ahead. [CONFIRMATION]

JENNIE COLE-MOSSMAN: We had an annual conference this year that we had national speakers and then we brought all the local child abuse councils together in Kearney so that they could meet and exchange information and collaborate. And we had the CEO from Prevent Child Abuse America there to provide them with technical assistance for marketing and how to get their communities involved. We've been streamlining our grant process so that our grantees have outcomes that are measurable and effective. And we're in the process of choosing an evaluation program or an evaluator to provide technical assistance to the grantees so that when they present their data, it's something that's quantitatively and qualitatively useful for us to use for replication or to show that they actually prevented some (inaudible). [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Where did you go to college? [CONFIRMATION]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

JENNIE COLE-MOSSMAN: I went to UNL for undergraduate here in Lincoln and then I went to the University of Southern California for my master's degree. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Well, that's what I picked up on. What got you out there?
[CONFIRMATION]

JENNIE COLE-MOSSMAN: I just decided I wanted to go away for a little bit and then I decided I wanted to come back, so. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Now we've got a question down there that's worthwhile. Senator Pankonin. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANKONIN: Jennie, I appreciate your service not only on this board but what you've done, obviously, with your own family to help kids in need. And obviously there is a hearing in another room about some of these issues, and we, this committee had some recent hearings on behavioral health so I think it's a continuing issue. I want to first thank you for what you've done, but any thoughts on some of the things we're going through right now and how we can best serve families in the future?
[CONFIRMATION]

JENNIE COLE-MOSSMAN: I think that's a complex question. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANKONIN: It is a complex question. I understand that. [CONFIRMATION]

JENNIE COLE-MOSSMAN: Yeah, it kind of depends on what area I'm coming from. As a therapist I work primarily with child abuse trauma, and managed care makes it very difficult for us to do our job. Medicaid doesn't find that parenting is medically necessary right now, so as a child therapist I find it very difficult to meet with parents and not talk about parenting. And from the Fund Board and the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, I just think that parenting is a really, really important issue. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANKONIN: I'm going to ask one other question. It's my assertion...I mean some people are going to say that we shouldn't...we should keep this limit up until 17. My concern besides...well, for several reasons, but one of them being I don't know that it does the child any good to be so-called dumped off or left off. To me that's a parent or guardian saying we don't want you. Would you agree with that? [CONFIRMATION]

JENNIE COLE-MOSSMAN: Yeah. I think personally and professionally I have a hard time...you know, when we became foster parents to Elizabeth at age two and a half and she went home at five, we knew that she needed more help and her mom needed more help. And so when...I think it's hard for me as an individual, when I make a commitment to something as important as a child, to be able to drop them off. But I work with a lot of

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

kids who have been in multiple placements, and the amount of rejection, the abandonment that they already feel from being in 27 or more placements, it's so damaging and leaves them with a lack of hope. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANKONIN: Well, thank you for your personal commitment to not only this board but to the young citizens that you try to help. Appreciate that. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator Gay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GAY: Jennie, this is kind of a follow-up to Senator Pankonin's question, but more of a suggestion. And, you know, every year we hear boards and we do these nominations. I was just looking through your resume--and everyone else's by the way--but just looking through here, all the experience you bring and then personal situation, as well. It's very good. But sometimes I think these boards give me the...I always kind of say I...keeping in contact with us a little bit more would be good, especially as we deal with some of these issues or so. You know, we're trying to figure it out. We're just citizens as well. But I think lots of times if you've got some things to say, and this would go for anybody on these boards, I wish they would contact us a little more because we'd appreciate some of the...you know, you've got a great background here and just I'd offer that up if you ever have anything that you have to add. I think we all appreciate hearing from boards, especially the members. It just means more than a letter and some of those things. So thanks for your service. [CONFIRMATION]

JENNIE COLE-MOSSMAN: Thanks. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: I agree wholeheartedly. Thank you very much. We do appreciate what you do. It makes a big difference and we, as a state, have to do a better job than what we're doing. It's that simple. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

JENNIE COLE-MOSSMAN: Okay. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Joni Kuzma. Last but not least. [CONFIRMATION]

JONI KUZMA: (Inaudible) I have to bring reading glasses (inaudible) something out. Hi, my name is Joni Kuzma; that's J-o-n-i K-u-z-m-a. I'm a lifelong resident of Nebraska. I was born in a little town north of Grand Island called North Loup, the popcorn capital. I was not the popcorn queen in case you wondered. I have lived in Grand Island for 26 years. I wanted to raise my kids in Nebraska because I love this state and I so appreciate giving them a life here. I have a son at UNL in law school, I have a daughter in college in Kearney, and I have one graduating this year that plans on going to UNL, so I'm also supporting the state that way. I work for the city of Grand Island and I have worked for them for eight years. I do grant writing and program management for them. When I first started with the city we were writing and administering \$300,000 to

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
November 17, 2008

\$500,000 every few years, and in the last eight years we're...I'm applying for more than \$3 million in grants a year, which we don't get all of them but we're somewhere between \$1.5 million and \$2 million of awards that I'm either writing or cowriting with people in Grand Island. And I think one of the opportunities I find with this board is you really do learn what makes a good grant, what you want your people to do when you fund them. And I'm a firm believer that rural Nebraska service providers are some of the most efficient and effective stewards of tax dollars that there are. I work with people with human service providers or service providers all the time in Grand Island even though I work in community development for the city. They just want to do more with what they have. You know, how the resources, there's only so much to go around, so they really do more with less. So that's my plug for rural Nebraska. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: You sound like a true North Loupian. [CONFIRMATION]

JONI KUZMA: I really am. North Loupian. It's a good place to be. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, you last two gals, I think kids that are abused kind of get to all of us, and so it really gets to the heart of all us, I think. So thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

JONI KUZMA: You're very welcome [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Any questions around the table? Joni, I see none. Thank you very much. That being the case, I believe that we've covered the entire field. Now if you'll excuse us and get the heck out of here, we'll confirm you. [CONFIRMATION]

Chairperson

Committee Clerk