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Transcriber's Office

General Affairs Committee
February 24, 2014

[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on General Affairs met at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, February 24, 2014, in Room 1510 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on gubernatorial appointments. Senators present: Russ Karpisek, Chairperson; Colby Coash, Vice Chairperson; Dave Bloomfield; Sue Crawford; Jerry Johnson; Bob Krist; Scott Lautenbaugh; and Ken Schilz. Senators absent: None.

SENATOR KARPISEK: Okay, we're going to get going. Welcome to the General Affairs Committee. My name is Russ Karpisek and I live in Wilber and I am the Chair of the committee. To my far right is Senator Crawford of Bellevue. And next to her is Senator Bloomfield of Hoskins. Coming in later will be Senator Lautenbaugh of Omaha. Senator Coash of Lincoln is our Vice Chair and he is presenting a bill in another committee right now. To my immediate right is Josh Eickmeier and he is committee legal counsel. To my far left is Christina Case who is committee clerk. Senator Johnson of Wahoo is next to her; Senator Schilz of Ogallala will be joining us; and Senator Krist of Omaha who will be taking over the Chair because I have a bill up in another committee too. Our page today is Colton Wolinski of Lincoln. Hi, Colton. Today we have ten confirmation hearings. After the nominee testifies, we will hear testimony in the order of support, opposition, and then neutral. If you're planning on testifying in any capacity, please pick up a sign-up sheet that is on one of the tables at the back of the room. Please fill out the sign-in sheet before you testify; and when it is your turn to testify, give your sign-in sheet either to the page or to committee clerk. This will help us make a more accurate public record. If you have handouts, please make sure that you have ten copies for the page to hand out to the committee. If you don't have that many, Colton can help you out with that. When you come up to testify, please speak clearly into the microphone. Please tell us your name and spell your first and last name. Also, please tell us whom you are representing, if anyone. Please turn off cell phones, pagers, or anything else that beeps. Please keep your conversations to a minimum or take them out in the hallway. I don't think we have too much trouble with that today. And thanks for your cooperation. Now I will turn the Chair over to Senator Krist and we will begin the confirmation hearing of Kim West Dinsdale for the Arts Council. She is joining us this afternoon by phone. Welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

KIM WEST DINSDALE: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KARPISEK: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself, please?
[CONFIRMATION]

KIM WEST DINSDALE: (Exhibit 1) Sure. I'm Kim Dinsdale and I appreciate you all letting me conference in today. I'm in Texas where it's a wee bit warmer. My Nebraska-native husband has decided that the Nebraska winters are too cold, so he brings me back to my home state for the winter. And we are close to San Antonio at

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Canyon Lake. And I grew up in Texas but moved to Nebraska when I married Tom in 1987. We live in Grand Island. I attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas and have a degree in psychology, which is not always helpful with my two boys who are 19 and 21 but I try. And I enjoy the arts very much. I'm on the Nebraska Cultural Endowment and Mid-America Arts Alliance, which has afforded me the opportunity to become more familiar with the Arts Council and what they do and the wonderful leadership of Suzanne Wise. So that's who I am and where I'm from and what I do.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you, Kim. This is Senator Krist and I, in my time in the Air Force, spent a couple of years in the San Antonio area and loved the New Braunfels area. At that time it was...hill country is just gorgeous so. [CONFIRMATION]

KIM WEST DINSDALE: That's where we go to the grocery store. We're actually at Canyon Lake so we're just a hop, skip, and a jump from New Braunfels.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: So I was just going to say I envy you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

KIM WEST DINSDALE: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

KIM WEST DINSDALE: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Any questions for Kim? You know, your resume here just in terms of service is outstanding. And I know that you will do a great job. You have done a great job. And I see that you bank at Pinnacle Bank. I just can't figure out why. (Laughter)
[CONFIRMATION]

KIM WEST DINSDALE: Well, they're pretty good to me there. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: I'll bet they are. [CONFIRMATION]

KIM WEST DINSDALE: I get good customer service. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Senator Johnson has a question for you. [CONFIRMATION]

KIM WEST DINSDALE: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: I heard it's a family tradition. [CONFIRMATION]

KIM WEST DINSDALE: To bank there? It is, it is, a good one. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR JOHNSON: Maybe it's in the information here. How long...this is a reappointment. How long have you...well, no, well, you're a new appointment. [CONFIRMATION]

KIM WEST DINSDALE: I'm a new appointment, um-hum. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. No wonder I couldn't find out the years you've been on the council, Arts Council. What do you feel that you can bring as a new member to the Arts Council? [CONFIRMATION]

KIM WEST DINSDALE: What I hope I can bring is more knowledge of what the Arts Council does into outstate Nebraska. They have the wonderful bus program that allows kids to go on field trips for schools that financially can't provide that, and they also provide artists in residence to schools. And there's just a lot of outreach that comes through the council that I hope that I can make people more aware in my area and they can gain access to the arts in that way. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you. No other question. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Any other questions? We really appreciate you taking time out of your day. Soak up that sunshine and send some back to us, will you, please? [CONFIRMATION]

KIM WEST DINSDALE: I appreciate you all letting me call in, and I'm sending sunshine your way; and if it doesn't get there soon, then you all just come down here and see me. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you so much. [CONFIRMATION]

KIM WEST DINSDALE: Okay. Have a great day. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Bye-bye. [CONFIRMATION]

KIM WEST DINSDALE: Bye-bye. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: I should have asked for pro and con, but I guess that goes without saying, so that ends the first. Next appointee is Paula...Pflueger? Is that right? Pflueger? Yes, ma'am. All right. [CONFIRMATION]

PAULA PFLUEGER: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you for coming. [CONFIRMATION]

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PAULA PFLUEGER: Thank you for having me. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Please tell us a little bit about yourself. [CONFIRMATION]

PAULA PFLUEGER: (Exhibit 2) All right. I'm Paula Pflueger and I was born and raised in Norfolk, Nebraska, spent my life there, and attended the University of Nebraska here in Lincoln. And then since college I have now been with Edward Jones as a financial advisor for 30 years this year. I have three children. My oldest is married and has two children, so I have two grandsons, and then my next son is graduating from the university this May, and my youngest is a junior at Lutheran High Northeast in Norfolk so. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: And are you a...have you been on...you've been on the council before, right? [CONFIRMATION]

PAULA PFLUEGER: Nope, I'm new. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: No, this is new, a new appointment? [CONFIRMATION]

PAULA PFLUEGER: My mom served eight years. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

PAULA PFLUEGER: So I became familiar with the Nebraska Arts Council during that time. And then Suzanne Wise called and asked if I would be interested in applying so... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: You're a recruit. [CONFIRMATION]

PAULA PFLUEGER: Yes. And since I always do what I'm told, I said yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Somehow I don't think that's true but that's okay. Any questions for Ms. Pflueger? You know, I guess the same question as Senator Johnson asked and we always try to ask: What do you think you're going to bring to this group? [CONFIRMATION]

PAULA PFLUEGER: Well, I've been involved in a lot of nonprofits and in my community and in northeast Nebraska, so I think that background will help in a number of ways. Also, I understand there's a great fiduciary responsibility when it comes to handling other people's money, both public and private, so I think that I can contribute in that way, trying to be a good steward. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR KRIST: This council really has...this...the group has a unique opportunity to have a huge public-private...and you're absolutely right. In balancing those funds, we do need that responsibility to be on that, on the commission. So I appreciate that. Any other questions? Yes, Senator Bloomfield. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: Thank you. Did you drive down this morning?
[CONFIRMATION]

PAULA PFLUEGER: I did. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: It's absolutely vital to your confirmation: How were the roads? (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

PAULA PFLUEGER: Hmm. They were a little sketchy up by Norfolk, but by the time I got to Columbus it...they weren't bad at all so. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: Welcome down from our part of the state.
[CONFIRMATION]

PAULA PFLUEGER: Thank you, yeah, thank you. Appreciate it. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: And thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

PAULA PFLUEGER: Um-hum. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you very much. Appreciate you coming down.
[CONFIRMATION]

PAULA PFLUEGER: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Any proponents? Any, and most importantly, any opponents? Any neutral testimony? I'm sure you'll hear from us very soon. Thank you very much.
[CONFIRMATION]

PAULA PFLUEGER: Thank you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Okay. The next one we're going to hear is Matthew Anselmo, and this position is the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling. Welcome.
[CONFIRMATION]

MATTHEW ANSELMO: Good afternoon. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR KRIST: Tell us a little bit about yourself. [CONFIRMATION]

MATTHEW ANSELMO: (Exhibit 3) I'm Matthew Anselmo. I've been in the Bellevue area since 1991. The Air Force did me a huge favor in bringing me out here when I was 19 years old and I've stayed since. I was active duty from 1991 to 1998, flew on the E-4, did criminal investigations for the Air Force, and protected the Secretary of Defense, and then transitioned into law enforcement in the community aspect and worked as a Papillion police officer from '98 to '03 and then worked for Union Pacific. I'm currently in the...for a period of time. I'm currently in the auto industry. I've done that for the last couple of years and I'm actually moving on to not-for-profit, and a brief period of time working for an organization in a...as a life coach director type of role called Crossroads Connection, which helps individuals that have been incarcerated that are transitioning out of the Nebraska penal system back into society. And what brings me here today, because I know that that's usually a question that's addressed and I've heard it addressed twice before, is I'm a client, I'm a recipient of services, and I have been since 2008 through Heartland Family Services. I made a drastic mistake, '07-08 time frame, when I owned and operated two businesses, and it involved gambling. My crime was mail fraud and unfortunately, through my experience, I've learned the benefit of being able to receive assistance through providers that are throughout the state. And I was asked to be on the committee by a provider and volunteered as quickly as I could. I think that I am an example of an individual that can be affected by the gambling addiction disease and with support and therapy and counseling can manage the disease and move forward. And that's what I've done, so that's what brings me here today. And fire away any questions that you guys have. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: You know, I was asked a couple of years ago, and we staffed a large effort to reorganize problem gambling and to put you in charge of your...of the programs rather than it being lodged in DHHS where I think the program was not managed as well as it could be and that's...to me, is an understatement. And one of the things that, when we started looking at the groups, one of the things that was just absolutely mind-boggling to me is the lack of treatment that was provided at that point, timely treatment, and notification so that people knew that the services were available. And my hope is that the changes that we made in the last year or so will create an atmosphere where people will realize there's help before they get themselves into a position where it's the penal system that's the only help they're going to see. I guess it begs one question from me. While you were incarcerated, did you get any therapy or help in your gambling addictions? [CONFIRMATION]

MATTHEW ANSELMO: I did, but it was related to drug and alcohol counseling. There was nothing in the federal system that addresses gambling. So what I did was I reached out and I received as much therapy as I could as I continued on, because I knew my incarceration was going to be for a brief period of time and I wanted to continue that. It's unfortunate that the federal system doesn't address that. This is a disease that runs the

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scope and runs the gamut. I was incarcerated with doctors, attorneys, and it's devastating. Being prior military, being prior service, I know it's something that's not addressed and it's in the forefront right now with an individual that's high ranking out of STRATCOM. So what...the way that I look at it is I've got no problems sharing my story and having my story public if it can stop somebody getting to the position that I unfortunately had to go through to overcome what I did. You know, it's...what I can tell you sitting here today and testifying is that the sooner that an individual receives treatment for this problem, the better it is, and the quicker that the issue can get addressed. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you so much, I mean; and your willingness to serve and tell the story, it's important for other people to hear the story sometimes. It's very easy to ignore things and we need to make sure that the programs are out there, they're available when they're needed, and that there are people like you who are going to follow up and say, well, you know, this is the way it might have happened different for me to avoid that from reoccurring. Any other questions? Senator Bloomfield. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: Thank you. Would you be willing to share what type of gambling you were addicted to? [CONFIRMATION]

MATTHEW ANSELMO: That's not a problem, Senator. I was...I owned a clothing company that was involved in...it was basically athletic apparel, and I was sponsoring athletes throughout the state and basically throughout the country, sponsoring the UFC, which is mixed martial arts. And I did primarily casino gambling. And with that being said, I know that, having been involved with this committee for an extended period of time now, one of the things that personally concerns me is that this isn't a disease that just affects the eastern part of the state. This is a disease that affects, you know, the entire population or has the opportunity to. And unfortunately, casino gambling is...I can go back to my phone and I can choose to gamble if I want to. So when I tell you that I have no problem sharing my story, I hope that it's able to reach everybody because, you know, therapy needs to be...it needs to be available to the entire population. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: Okay. Thank you. I think we got another lesson in that with one of our colleagues a year and a half ago. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: The other thing I would note, which is equally as important, there is an ideal situation where we could remove all of the evils from society, you know, and there's a situation where people enjoy certain things in moderation. And I think we hear more in this committee about the moderate, you know, the folks who are handling the issue. But it's important because looking at the budget that was proposed for problem gambling and trying to help you all out with that in the past few weeks, you have some

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amazing holes in the state where there's not any services available and, you know, a 50- or 60-mile drive to actually get someplace to do something. So you've got some big challenges ahead and probably still not enough money to do what you need to do but good luck. [CONFIRMATION]

MATTHEW ANSELMO: Thanks--looking forward to tackling them. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you. Any proponents? Any opponents? Any neutral? I have to ask those. I'm sorry. That's just the way it is. Thank you so much for coming. Next appointee, Marla Bruder. Welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

MARLA BRUDER: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Like to tell us a little bit about yourself? [CONFIRMATION]

MARLA BRUDER: (Exhibits 4 and 5) Yeah. I'm Marla Bruder. I'm from Crete, Nebraska. I'm kind of glad that Senator Karpisek stepped out because I'm sure he knows my husband, so I'm not sure if that's good or bad. (Laughter) Two daughters, two grandchildren...I'll try not to get too emotional. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Take your time. [CONFIRMATION]

MARLA BRUDER: Sorry. I have also went through treatment; 2004 is when I started. And amazingly enough, I still get emotional. My crime was actually embezzlement. I actually stole my money from a federal agency that was actually run by the state of Nebraska, so some of you may remember that case. It was a fairly large case. I, too, like Matt, served time in a federal prison. Apparently, I was a little more fortunate because I did have an agency that...I was in Pekin, Illinois, in a women's facility there. Thank you. And I did have an outside agency that came in twice a week. And so I started my treatment in 2004. I actually turned myself in, in 2004, President's Day of 2004, started treatment immediately. One thing I will say is that when I was going through this initially, I had no idea where to go for treatment. I didn't even know there was treatment available. And when I went to the...my attorney that I was going to hire that day--and I had kept extensive records of the money that I had been taking since approximately 2000-2001--he had no idea where to send me either, you know. I said, I need to get help, but I had no idea where to go. I wound up going to a...just the phone book and luckily I picked an agency that was, to me, the best agency that I could have walked into and still involved with them today. I go in and do some speaking to some of the clients that are just coming in to services or that think that their problem is not as big as what they thought, you know, that it actually is, and try to tell them that, you know, if you don't take the treatment seriously now, it can spiral out of control. I would hate to see where I would be today if that treatment would not have been available to me back in 2004. Another thing that the treatment did is they prepared my family for me going

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away. It was devastating. I actually...my oldest daughter tried to commit suicide while I was gone. She was going through a very abusive marriage, was not real close with my husband before I left. So she was trying to deal with all of that on her own with me being gone. And, those of you who obviously have not been incarcerated, you only get one phone call a day, and so devastating when you're in that situation and you're calling and, you know, for a couple days nobody was answering my phone calls. And then I finally got my mother-in-law to answer and had to learn that while I was in prison and wasn't there. So this addiction is very devastating not only to the person that is in the addiction but also the family of that person. So I said when I got out that I would do as much as I could to give back to those that had helped me, and I've been attempting to do that and this is just one more attempt. I also was approached by the counseling agency that I went through counseling with and they asked me to sit on the commission and I said, of course, anything that I can do. You talked about the holes out in western Nebraska for those people that don't have counseling and have to travel distances to get that counseling. I can't imagine how hard that would be. I, you know, had readily available to my counselor any time day or night that I needed her. I went from...well, I got out of...I got off of probation in 2009 so I got home in 2007. But I went from 2004 to...while I was out to probably 2010 where I wouldn't even go inside a gas station because of the lottery that was available there. I didn't go in a grocery store if I knew that they sold lottery tickets at any checkout counter. I actually in 2004 went to all the Nebraska casinos and did a lifetime ban of myself that...where I've signed a paper where I will not step inside any casino in Nebraska or any casino out of state that is affiliated or owned by the same casinos in Nebraska. So that was just one step that I did to try to keep myself out of that casino. That was my main gambling. I was going up there three, four times a week, but I also did do pickle cards, scratch-off tickets, and Powerball, probably \$100 a day or better, for scratch-offs. So that was just something I had to do, to not walk into a gas station or grocery store where they were available. Now I walk into a gas station and if I have to stand in line behind somebody that's buying them I just want to slap them and say, do you have any idea what you're doing, or, get out of my way, I need to buy my coffee so I can go to work. (Laughter) I don't have time... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: (Laugh) Get the heck out of there. Do us a favor, don't slap anybody, because we need you. (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

MARLA BRUDER: Yes, don't have time for this, just get out of my way so I can go to work. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Well, it goes without saying, and both to Mr. Anselmo and to you, I don't have to ask you what you're going to bring to this cause. So thank you for doing what you're doing. [CONFIRMATION]

MARLA BRUDER: Hopefully I can get unemotional one of these years when I talk about

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it but... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: It's all right. Thank you so much. Any questions? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator Krist. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Hopefully this is not...wouldn't be emotional for you and I appreciate you coming with your testimony and your service. It started out because you were embezzling. Is that right? [CONFIRMATION]

MARLA BRUDER: Um-hum. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: If you would have not turned to gambling in order to try and recover your money,... [CONFIRMATION]

MARLA BRUDER: No, I was embezzling to cover my gambling. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay, gambling came first. Okay, that's... [CONFIRMATION]

MARLA BRUDER: Yeah, yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: That answers my question then. [CONFIRMATION]

MARLA BRUDER: Yeah. Yep, yep, yep. I was embezzling to cover my gambling, yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: To cover the gambling? [CONFIRMATION]

MARLA BRUDER: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

MARLA BRUDER: Yeah. And one thing it does...you know, I had a good job with the state of Nebraska. I had a good retirement buildup. My retirement is now gone because we had to cash that in, in order for my husband to keep the house. And I'm still dealing with the ramifications now of my embezzlement. As soon as I got...of course I have the restitution that I'm paying back monthly. But then I wasn't home from prison for probably a month and the Internal Revenue Service came after me. So I'm pretty much working for...half of my paycheck every month is what I get to keep. The rest of it goes to the IRS and to my restitution. So...but... [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR JOHNSON: Do you have any problems as you have...I don't know how long you've worked at your current job or since you came out. Because of a record, have you had any problems getting employment? [CONFIRMATION]

MARLA BRUDER: You know, I don't. My first employer that I got, I don't suppose they have a problem. I got a job working with Developmental Services of Nebraska. It's an agency that handles residential and vocational services for individuals with developmental disabilities. And I worked as a...in one of their program directors at one of their "voc" sites. And you know, I wish I could have started that career when I had my other one because there's no other rewarding career than that one, in my opinion. And so I got a job with them actually and they did not know anything when I got the job. My attorney said, you don't need to disclose it. I got a job with them in 2004, shortly after I'd turned myself in, and of course resigned from my position with the state. But I didn't have to disclose it because I hadn't been charged yet and I was not actually charged until 2005. So I had already worked there almost a year before I had been charged, and they actually held my job for me while I was in Pekin for the 11 months that I was there, and then I had to go into a...I've lost my thought, what they are. You go into them after you come out of prison. And I was there for two months in Omaha and I drove back and forth and worked from there. And then I had...the job that I currently have now was brought to me. It was a couple of gentlemen were starting an agency, same type of agency, but they were breaking out on their own and they had asked me to come work for them. So I actually gave my previous employer the 11 months that they had saved my job for me, and then I transferred over to the job that I have now and I've been with them since 2006. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: It appears they recognize your skills and not the other side. [CONFIRMATION]

MARLA BRUDER: Yeah, which I'm very thankful for. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yeah. Very good. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Any other questions? Thank you so much for coming and for sharing. [CONFIRMATION]

MARLA BRUDER: Yeah, thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: And thanks for your service. Any proponents? Any opponents? Any neutral? Okay. Mark Canada. Mark, I think you've been before us before, haven't you? Have you been to this committee before? [CONFIRMATION]

MARK CANADA: I don't think so, huh-uh. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR KRIST: Oh, okay. You look familiar. Sorry. [CONFIRMATION]

MARK CANADA: (Exhibit 6) Seems like a first time so thank you, ladies and gentlemen. (Laughter) And, Senator Krist, I'd like to thank you for the work you've done in creating our commission and your work with LB6. So it's, I guess, exciting times for us. But, yes, my name is Mark Canada. I'm a Nebraska native, born and raised in Bertrand, Nebraska, a town of about 750 people, you know, a small-town ag community, grew up working on the farm and that kind of stuff. Moved to Hastings in 2004 to attend Hastings College and graduated from there and has...I've been in Hastings ever since. I work at Five Points Bank in Hastings currently. I'm glad Mrs. Dinsdale is off the phone right now so I can say that we truly are the better bank in central Nebraska region. Hope she's off the phone, is that correct? So I'm currently employed, like I said, with Five Points Bank. I'm a loan officer and department manager among other things, so a little bit of my background, I guess. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Great. What do you think you're going to add to this process?
[CONFIRMATION]

MARK CANADA: Well, first and foremost, I suppose, a comedic air. I think it's important for any committee or commission to have a, you know, a lighthearted...in all seriousness, this is a new experience for me to be on, you know, a committee or a commission in this fashion, serving in this capacity, and I'm sure you guys can all see that my resume would be quite a bit lighter than all the five people sitting behind me today. However, what I think I can bring, I currently sit on our internal audit and steering committee at our bank, also our budget committee. I'm a numbers guy. I'm a budget guy. I understand that kind of stuff and I think I can, you know, bring that type of insight to the commission. As far as the addiction side of it, I've had close friends and family members affected by different types of addictions. They weren't gambling addictions, per se, but I have enough experience in that, that I understand that there...you know, an addiction truly is a disease and it's not something that most people just choose to do, whether it's alcoholism, drugs, you know, gambling, anything, and, you know, felt the need to serve, to get involved, whether it was at a state level or local level, and I'm excited to do so. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Great. Any questions? You know, I guess that is a key, being able to put someone's life back together, having a financial person, a numbers person to help you crunch it up to make sure it...you can put it back together. So I'm excited and encouraged by the board members that have been appointed. And I think you have a huge challenge ahead of you in terms of standing up something on your own, and I wish you all the luck in the world. Thank you for doing what you're doing. [CONFIRMATION]

MARK CANADA: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Krist. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR KRIST: Thank you very much. Any proponents? Any opponents? Any neutral testimony? Thanks for coming, Mark. [CONFIRMATION]

MARK CANADA: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Janelle Holt. Welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

JANELLE HOLT: (Exhibit 7) Thank you. My name is Janelle Holt. I am a social worker at Children's Hospital and Medical Center. Before that I was a gambling counselor. Before that I was a licensed drug and alcohol counselor. Before that I worked in prison where I learned to be a drug and alcohol counselor. I have a master's in social work from UNO. Before that I was at Northwest Missouri State University. I was asked to leave after partying too much apparently. I actually got a B.S. and I left and I came to UNO and finished up with a master's in social work. And I think I can bring a perspective of being a gambling counselor to the commission. I was on the committee when it was a committee, as well, and found that frustrating. So things are much better now that it's a commission. Don't know what else I can give you guys right now. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: For the folks who weren't really intimately involved with the bill and changing, for years, even though constitutionally the money came out of the gambling funds and went to problem gambling, it was being held by the Department of Health and Human Services and it was kind of mixed up with other behavioral health and addiction funds. And the frustration I think that you felt was that most often all the money that could have been or should have been spent towards gambling addictions was not being spent that way, and I think that will be the challenge of this new commission is to fashion those kind of services because you're running your own ship, so to speak, so. [CONFIRMATION]

JANELLE HOLT: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: And if you'd like to comment on that, feel free to. [CONFIRMATION]

JANELLE HOLT: Yes, I think that was very true. I think we were just being housed in with the wrong area. It feels much better to be where we were supposed to be from the beginning and to have it more of a handle on how things are done. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Super. Any other questions? Thank you so much for coming. And are there any proponents? Any opponents? Any neutral? Thank you. Are we up to Paul Leckband? Welcome, Paul. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL LECKBAND: (Exhibits 8 and 9) Hi. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Tell us about yourself. [CONFIRMATION]

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PAUL LECKBAND: Well, I'm a little nervous. I think I have my cell phone totally shut down, but two Sundays ago I thought I had it totally shut down and it went off when I was at the communion rail so. (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: You received your call. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL LECKBAND: Yeah. (Laugh) I am principal and executive director at Lutheran High Northeast in Norfolk. I was raised in Missouri but born in Odell, Nebraska, so I am a native Nebraskan. I've been involved in secondary education since I graduated from Concordia-Seward in 1975, so my experience since then has been in Lutheran high schools. I was at Lincoln Lutheran when it was a junior high school. I was there for 13 years and I've been...I came back to Nebraska in 1997 to help get Lutheran High off the ground. So I have been there ever since. I actually had my first encounter with teenagers gambling I want to say maybe six or seven years ago. We had a group of students, and it was primarily seniors, who were playing poker and they were trying to play poker at school. First it was after school but then they tried to get away with it in some study halls, and so we were trying to put a stop to that. Somebody brought to my attention that there was a provider of gambling services who was a member of my congregation, a future school parent, and so I had a conversation with him. He came in, did an assembly for our kids. I had a parent of one of those students who was furious that we were making a big deal about something when our kids could be doing so many more worse things, but that just kind of went by the wayside. And then when I agreed to let my name to be put into nomination, I thought, you know, I'd better educate myself. So I sat down with the same provider. He gave me a lot of education. I did a lot of reading, did a lot of studying. I have a real heart for teenagers and I think especially because there are just so many things in our culture that are out there that just bring our kids down. And this is one more thing that I think many, many people are not aware of, I was not particularly aware of; and to sit in on some of the commission meetings and find out that there are kids as young as nine and ten years old that are gambling and that there are kids that are developing gambling problems even before they get into high school, that just boggles my mind. So what I think I can bring to the table is my heart for helping adolescents, and I'm very, very interested in what programs can be put into place to help prevent that from happening, education, prevention, and that is what I'm very, very interested in doing. I think I can bring that to the table. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you. Any questions for Paul? Senator Bloomfield.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: Not really a question, but he was involved in Lutheran High when a couple of my grandchildren were going there, I think. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL LECKBAND: Good. What do they say about me? (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: I'll have to find out. (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL LECKBAND: Okay. (Laughter) I'm sorry I brought that up. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LAUTENBAUGH: One question too many. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL LECKBAND: Oh, my goodness. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: They're currently in Oklahoma so. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL LECKBAND: Okay. I promised myself I wasn't going to get into trouble but too late. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: And then I see your state senator is Jim Scheer so we're sorry. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL LECKBAND: Yes. Yep. Yep, also a member of my church. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Well, thank you so much for coming. Any other...? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: You have a question from Senator Crawford. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Oh, sorry, Senator Crawford. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Oh, that's all right. It was just more of a comment. I just really appreciate that you took time to sit down and do a little research in taking your position here seriously and thinking very carefully about what you will bring. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL LECKBAND: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: And once again, it's going to be a challenge because you are sailing your own ship now, so certainly come back to this committee and let us know if there are issues that come up. Thank you so much. Thanks for driving in. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL LECKBAND: You're welcome. You're welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Any proponents? Opponents? Neutral testimony? That brings us to Susan Lutz. Welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

SUSAN LUTZ: (Exhibit 10) I am Susan Lutz. I am also from Norfolk, so it's kind of

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a...three here from Norfolk is pretty wild to me. I have lived in Nebraska my entire life and was raised here; my husband was raised here. We have three children. Two are grown and then we have six grandchildren and have a child still in high school, so we have a fun life. I graduated from Wayne State College in 1985 after our first two children were born and was involved in...actually worked for the state of Nebraska as an auditor for a few years. And then I went into public accounting and worked for a CPA firm and then 24 years ago started a business called Professional Accounting Solutions. And we were a bookkeeping service bureau and did a lot of accounting and a lot of financial statement preparation and a lot of accounting things for many businesses. Last November I sold that business, which is very exciting, so I've been retired for four months. In about a month I am going to join the staff of BankFirst and be their internal auditor in Norfolk and their various sites. So that's kind of my professional background. That's me. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: That's great. Any questions? Well, once again, someone in the banking institution and particularly helping people get their life back together will probably be very critical for some folks so. [CONFIRMATION]

SUSAN LUTZ: Well, and, you know, I don't know a whole lot about gambling, to tell you the truth. I also have done...you know, just kind of read up on it and tried to figure out what it's all about. And I think we have a real responsibility as a citizen of this state when funds are allocated then to make sure they go where they belong and to spend those as best we can. So that will be a fun thing to do and that, it's something that I enjoy. And I don't know what that says about me, but I love the budgeting process and just seeing it through and making sure that it clicks correctly so. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Well, your talents will be well used. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SUSAN LUTZ: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you so much. [CONFIRMATION]

SUSAN LUTZ: Um-hum. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Any proponents? Any opponents? Any neutral testimony? Okay. Terry Scoville. [CONFIRMATION]

TERRY SCOVILLE: (Exhibits 11 and 12) Just saving the last two "Terrys" for last. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Just the last two Terrys, not the best for last, just the...? [CONFIRMATION]

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TERRY SCOVILLE: Yep, my Terry and that Teri. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: ...as we "Terry" on. [CONFIRMATION]

TERRY SCOVILLE: My name is Terry Scoville. I was born and raised at Sumner, Nebraska. I graduated from the same high school that my dad and my daughter graduated from, so I am familiar with the state of Nebraska. In the year 2000 my wife and I moved to North Platte where we opened up an antique and secondhand store and we've just kind of enjoyed that. I retired in May of last year, mostly just to spend time with my grandkids, but it doesn't seem to have focused that way because I've gotten involved in some other things. But I wouldn't change it. As far as being a member of the commission, when I first thought about joining, I talked to my next-door neighbor and I said that the state was looking at starting a Commission for Problem Gambling. And he kind of looked at me and said, well, why? He says, Nebraska is a family-orientated state, there is no gambling here. He really actually did not feel that there's any type of problem gambling. I asked him if he was aware that two buses go from North Platte to South Dakota every week with gamblers on it, and he was not aware of that. Once I got into the commission I found out that the service that is supposed to help with gambling up in North Platte or western Nebraska, they've never spent any money towards it. They're more interested in the drug and alcohol or juvenile counseling and stuff like that. About a month ago, I had a call from a gentleman who lived in Ainsworth, and he is a nationally certified gambling counselor and he wanted to kind of get back into the system. He talked to Jerry, who was our executive officer here, and he gave him my name and we went to Perkins over lunch and talked about it and he is now going to open up an office in North Platte beginning March 1. Since that time, I'm also getting ready to graduate as a CASA person and the executive committee...the executive officer of that is also a drug and alcohol counselor and she is interested in it and she has a friend that's interested. So probably by the first of May we will actually have three gambling counselors living in the North Platte area and able to help with this program. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: That's fantastic. [CONFIRMATION]

TERRY SCOVILLE: We are so far from Omaha and Lincoln that if somebody would call from North Platte and say, I need a counselor, who do we send them to? Under the old 800 number I think basically they would take the names, the gentleman's name, the lady's name, try to find a counselor for them that they could drive to, and it can be three or four days down the road. Now with the new 800 number we should be able to immediately contact them. So I think my ability to bring this to the Gambling Commission will be that because we're in western Nebraska I have a lot to offer out that way because we're so not able to do anything at this time. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Your regional health areas across the state also are supposed to be

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there to help. And I know that there has been some pushback... [CONFIRMATION]

TERRY SCOVILLE: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: ...with some of the regions and it's been kind of difficult. So hopefully, again, because you all are steering your own ship now, you'll be able to reconnect with those areas. [CONFIRMATION]

TERRY SCOVILLE: Um-hum, yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: You know, I guess, from my own experience, very rarely is there...if you're an addictive kind of person, there is other things--there may be alcohol, there may be drugs, there may be other things--that are involved. So thanks for volunteering, thanks for stepping up. [CONFIRMATION]

TERRY SCOVILLE: I've enjoyed it so far. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Senator Johnson. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yeah. I have a question on the side: Are you related to Keith Scoville? [CONFIRMATION]

TERRY SCOVILLE: Yes. Well, I have a cousin that was Keith Scoville.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Oh, okay, okay,... [CONFIRMATION]

TERRY SCOVILLE: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: ...because his wife is my cousin so. [CONFIRMATION]

TERRY SCOVILLE: Oh, really. Huh. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Small world. [CONFIRMATION]

TERRY SCOVILLE: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: I don't have any other questions. Thank you for stepping up.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHILZ: That's Nebraska. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: (Laugh) That's Nebraska. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR KRIST: I (inaudible)...that's Nebraska. [CONFIRMATION]

TERRY SCOVILLE: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: And I believe you're the best-dressed one here so...including all of us so. [CONFIRMATION]

TERRY SCOVILLE: You know, mostly in North Platte when we have board meetings we come in jeans and a flannel shirt, so this is my time that I can wear a shirt, like, once a year. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Yeah, I like the shoes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHILZ: I was going to say, yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Any other questions? Thank you, Terry. I really appreciate you coming. [CONFIRMATION]

TERRY SCOVILLE: I...yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: And we're left with Teresa or "Teri" Toosh (phonetic), right? [CONFIRMATION]

TERI TEUTSCH: Toytch (phonetic). [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Toysch (phonetic)? Toysch (phonetic). [CONFIRMATION]

TERI TEUTSCH: Yep, close. I married the name (inaudible) (laughter). [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

TERI TEUTSCH: (Exhibit 13) Thank you very much. Good afternoon. My name is Teri Teutsch and you've got it spelled correctly over there, I'm sure. I'm the only one that was born and raised outside the state. I was actually a native of Detroit. My family...I still have family that lives there. I went to the University of South Dakota, graduated from there, and ended up here in Nebraska and from Omaha now. My husband and I own a small business and it's family owned and operated. Our daughter is actually basically running it for us now. I've been a community volunteer for a number of years in and around the Omaha area and also with Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, which is a state organization. I bring, I think, critical thinking skills to this committee. I can tell you for the times that we've met we've made great strides. I mean, you know

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that we have a limited budget and all of that. But I have learned an incredible amount and I guess, as I said, I would bring an awareness and education to both the Omaha community, but we also own a smaller house up in Decatur. And it's interesting because the business that we own, we sell stickers and toys for doctors and dentists, but I...two of our employees came into the kitchen the other day and one of them said, I'm getting ready to throw my phone away. I was like, why, what's that all about? And he goes, I cannot master this game. Well, it was Candy Crush, and he...I said, do you understand that's the fastest addicting game that you can play? He goes, what are you talking about? I said, you put money into your phone so you can play the game, right? And he goes, well, yeah. And I said, and when you can't get to the next level, what do you do? And he said, I guess I put more money on my phone so I can play this game. And I said, and what do you think that's called? And he was like, oh. (Laugh) So again, you know, when Terry says that people don't understand that there's gambling in this state, we may not have a casino anywhere in our state, but it's all around us at any time. As a matter of fact, a little aside, I was watching TV yesterday and there was a commercial and it's the children's version of Candy Crush. And at the very bottom, if you look at the trailer, it says, please...it says something like, please check with the parent who holds the credit card to make sure this is okay. And I thought, wow, you know, do parents even realize what their kids are doing on their phones too? So anyway.

[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Excellent point, and we've heard in this committee about the opportunity to get on-line and how that transcends down to the kid who is there at eight, nine, ten years old, so age challenge. [CONFIRMATION]

TERI TEUTSCH: It was occupying several children at the Creighton game yesterday afternoon, which wasn't a bad thing since they weren't misbehaving. But at the same time I was like, whoa. So anyway. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Any questions for Teri? Well, thank you for coming and thank you for your service. [CONFIRMATION]

TERI TEUTSCH: Um-hum, absolutely. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Appreciate it. Any proponents? Any opponents? Any neutral? I guess that concludes our hearings today for gubernatorial appointees. Thank you all for coming and for driving the distances that you did. [CONFIRMATION]