

SENATOR WESELY: This is one of the more unusual hearings. You don't usually see people down on both sides of an issue, but Dr. Stripe showed up as a representative for the Emergency Medical Care Board, and that the board took a position in opposition. But he, himself, actually supported the bill, so after his testimony on behalf of the board, he said he would like to testify on his own, and there he testified in support. So it is a little hard to categorize his thinking other than the board he is a member of had concerns about the training level, I think, and some questions in that regard, but, obviously, he, himself, felt that the bill was fine, so...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: That is interesting. Could you tell me, what is the emergency medical care board? Is that made up of the responders or what is it?

SENATOR WESELY: They oversee the EMT of the state and deal with...they are sort of like the licensing board for that element. Dr. Stripe is a member but there are like EMTs on it. I don't know the full membership.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay. Well, then to leave that one for a moment, unless you can share anything more about what their real concerns were, to go back to what Senator Wickersham was talking about on the other part of the bill, LB 1058. You know what real differences are there between the situations in Lincoln, say, and Harrison, Nebraska? We know there are distance differences and more time, maybe, in getting to the hospital. Are there differences in personnel, for instance, that staff these emergency rescue units?

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, yeah, there is tremendous differences and we are very fortunate to be in a situation we are in emergencies in Lincoln or Omaha, particularly, and any of our other cities with a hospital close by. You have paramedics, you have your other types of first responders. In five to six minutes, seven, eight minutes, you can be just about anywhere in the city, get somebody stabilized back into a hospital a very quick fashion. You have to really rely on the EMTs, a little lower level of training, little more time distance, a lot more difficult circumstances they are under out there trying to go to help our people in our rural areas. And so, yes, there is a big differential in the emergency system we have here versus the rural areas of the state. It is tough.