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color technicians. Also, for clarification, a body art facility would mean any room or space where body art is practiced, or where the business of body art is conducted. This legislation would also require a prior written and notarized consent from a parent or a court-appointed guardian for any person less than 18 years of age who would seek a body art procedure. And it would also require that they be present during that procedure. Finally, the body art practitioner must retain the written consent for five years, and failure to adhere to these requirements would be a Class III misdemeanor. Additionally, this bill would provide that nothing in the Nebraska Cosmetology Act should be construed to authorize a person performing body piercing to implant or embed foreign objects into the human body, or otherwise engage in the practice of medicine or surgery. And there's been a...really a great deal of support for this bill this year. And, as been passed around to you, included is a letter from the State Board of Health, the Nebraska Medical Association, the Dental Association, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, and law enforcement officials. Additionally, I have been contacted by practitioners and parents who also support this legislation. And I wanted to take just this opportunity to share with you a little bit of the history of why I bring this legislation. In 1997, there were parents who contacted me regarding the lack of tattoo regulation. And they were calling in response to their daughters, who were 12 and 13, who actually had received some tattoos during the school hours. And they realized that there was nothing that they could do to prevent this practice, and so I did become involved. My main concern in introducing this bill is the health and safety of minors and others who have body art procedures performed. I believe that young adolescents especially are unaware of some of the health and social consequences that these practices have, and their long-term effect. There may be general health problems such as skin allergies, irritation, rashes, tissue damage, tetanus, tuberculosis, hepatitis B and C, transmission of venereal diseases and AIDS. And there also could be physical and mental risk. In closing, the safety and health of those receiving body art is a concern, as I have said. There are a lot of trends out there happening. For instance, on the coast, they're doing tongue splitting, digit removal, planting of metal objects under