

requires any facility doing laboratory testing to have a certificate. It requires laboratories to participate in blind studies and to keep laboratory records and allows for inspection. The bill defines who can do laboratory testing and provides consultants to help those laboratories who do not employ formally trained personnel. This group worked hard to get to this particular point. It's not easy, as you know, from the two bills we had ahead this morning, one in particular. When these turf arguments come along it's not easy to get doctors, nurses, hospital administrators and medical technologists, all the medical field, all the health related fields, it's difficult to get them to agree. So we do feel that this particular bill is necessary for the citizens in Nebraska and all these people have gotten together and agree to the wording of this bill and the content and the goal of this bill. Nebraskans spend more than \$150 million in laboratory tests with no assurance that these tests are done correctly, so LB 551 helps to ensure the quality of laboratory testing in Nebraska. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you. I have a question of Senator Wesely, if he would yield.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, would you please respond to a question?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Senator Wesely, on this board that we are creating, the laboratory advisory board, the director appoints all of these people, is that correct?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, in most cases the director will end up appointing.

SENATOR PIRSCH: They don't actually do the certifying though, is that correct?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Excuse me, Senator Pirsch, would you please speak into the mike.

SENATOR PIRSCH: I'm sorry.