

proposal to certify first responders is based on the fact that personnel essentially seek to give formal recognition to a portion of the emergency medical system that is already in place. They serve an invaluable person (sic) in rural areas. I think most of you that live in Omaha or Lincoln or a large city realize how close you are to services like that. We are a long ways out in the area that I represent. In the Department of Health's report to Senator Wesely, Dr. Wright summed up I think the situation very good, by eliminating the uncertainties associated with this provision of first responders, the proposal would give small rural communities that cannot afford an ambulance service encouragement to establish a first responders unit, and that the bill is very important to rural Nebraska. I think some of the maybe small difficulties that we heard about a little while ago, I am sure they can be ironed out, and the Department of Health and the first responders across the state have worked very hard on this for the last two or three years, to develop this, get the format that everyone agrees on. The requirements for certification, I will run through those; that the CPR certification issued within twelve months preceding application, and they must pass a Nebraska Forty-Hour EMS-First Responder Course or hold a current certificate from the U.S. Department of Transportation, or pass a Nebraska EMT course, must be 18 years of age. Certificate is good for three years. Recertification requires thirty-hours of continuing education in EMS. Service must contact with a licensed ambulance service to transport patients, and they must provide required information to the department and the number and names of the certified first responders. They must be inspected at least every three years, and they must be certified in automatic defibrillation and have a physician, medical doctor that they can get ahold of at any time. And with this I will let Senator Morrissey, if there is no questions...are there any lights on?

PRESIDENT MOUL: Yes, sir, there are. Senator Morrissey, there is about five minutes left. Senator Rogers, what should we do?

SENATOR ROGERS: Okay, I will turn it over to Senator Morrissey.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Simply...thank you, Senator Rogers. Madam President and members, simply what my provisions of the bill would do would allow for the use of airway management, which did