

donor is, quite frankly, a little more complicated than that of a simple blood transfusion. It does usually involve time off from work. It involves going into a hospital, usually on overnight stay at the hospital. The bone marrow is actually a liquid and it is taken from, usually, from the hipbone and people that have gone through and been donors indicate that there is a little bit of a recovery time for this. Anyway, that's basically I think most of the information I wanted to give to you. I'd urge you to look at the letter from the O'Neil's. I would urge you to look at this handout that I passed out talking about how you become a donor. Specifically, what does this bill do? What it does is three things. Number one, it encourages employers. Does not mandate employers. I know I did not want to get into that whole situation of mandated employer programs, but it encourages employers to work with donors if an individual is chosen as a donor. The state policy is, if this bill passes, we encourage the employers to give time off from work, and it's usually a day, maybe a couple of days I think where an individual would need that time off. It sets up a program in the State Department of Health to inform citizens of the state about the need for this program, encourages them to become donors. And, third, it sets up a program where we will do the initial typing, test typing of 200 state employees. Up in the Omaha area when we did the drive that was associated with the O'Neil situation, we found that it cost about 50 dollars for the initial testing and we raised money from private sources to do that and to test, roughly, I think it was a little over around 1,200 people, as I recall, was the number that were tested. This would provide the funds to test a couple hundred state employees. It does not, I should point out, does not pay for the bone marrow transplant itself. The bone marrow transplant is a very expensive medical procedure and individuals would still be responsible, either through their own insurance coverage or whatever other systems they may have to pay for the transfer. It's important, namely, because it will add more donors to the pool of potential donors and each donor that is added to that pool raises the odds that somebody's life will be saved some place in the country. Second, it is...the bill raises the public awareness of citizens out in our state and I think the one thing Senator Labeledz touched on is it is supportive of a program that we have at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. We are one of the premiere transplant centers in the whole United States and this area of...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.