

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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SENATOR JENSEN: Madam President, members of the Legislature, it is with humility that I submit my name for Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee to replace Senator Don Wesely, who...leaving the Legislature, and I publicly want to thank him for the many years of service that he has served, both on this committee and to the Legislature. It is a tremendous challenge. The Nebraska Health and Human Services System represents about one-half of the state's budget, about one-third of the state's employees. It really touches the lives of all Nebraskans and is essential to the very existence of those who are our most needy citizens. Since coming to the Legislature four years ago, there have been a number of significant changes--welfare reform, the nurse practitioner legislation, the Nebraska Partnership, adoption law changes, certificate of need, the HHS network development strategy, the behavioral health redesign, juvenile justice reform, LB 1070, children's health insurance just to name a few. These and many more issues will need to be addressed by the committee in the next few years. I believe that my experience on the committee the past four years, my service as Vice Chair on the Banking Committee, my professional and business experience have prepared me for the challenges that lie ahead. I pledge to each of you, if elected, my dedication to be open, fair, receptive, candid, and courteous to all who bring business before the committee. How we treat our citizens who cannot help themselves, how we treat our young, how we care for our elderly into the next twenty-first century is a significant indicator on how well we are doing in fulfilling our responsibility of promoting the general welfare for the great state of Nebraska. I thank you for your kind consideration and your vote. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Suttle.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I would also like to nominate myself for the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee and thank Senator Wesely for his wonderful leadership for the last years. I've served on this committee for the last two years and have been extremely interested in participating in the redesign of the state's Health and Human Services System. I have spent my time in the Legislature trying to solve problems. For example, I led a task force, in 1997, that dealt with the recodification and