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"resequencing" of the Juvenile Code. It was a challenging assignment and dealt with approximately 35 strong-minded personalities from across the state. The group was unable to agree on anything for the first several meetings. Through consensus building and compromise we were able to develop a proposal to address some solutions to the ongoing enigma known as the juvenile justice system. The Legislature passed the legislation in 1998 without rancor because we worked out the kinks beforehand. I also worked with the insurance industry and the medical community by building consensus and brokering a compromise in order to pass legislation dealing with off-label medication for people who have cancer or AIDS. The interested parties started out at an impasse. In the end, we were able to adopt the legislation without a fight on the floor. I got the parties to sit down at a meeting in my office to work out their problems. There's much to be done in this session and in the coming years to deal with a variety of health issues, including services for the developmentally disabled; services for the mentally ill; licensed health professionals and their scopes of practice; improving our juvenile justice system; protecting children, who are abused or neglected, through Child Protective Services and other agencies; maintaining a strong, safe and very good foster care system; preventing problems our constituents encounter in their health care delivery schemes; and obtaining our share of resources from the federal government so that we can deliver adequate services. You'll need a strong Health and Human Services Committee to process legislation to bring before this body. You will need a strong Chair to lead the consensus building and forge the compromises necessary to pass good legislation. I think I have the ability to be that leader for you. I'm extremely committed to doing the best job as Chair through tenacious hard work and persistent dedication. I am open to your concerns and your solutions. I have contacted the new administration in the Health and Human Services System and pledge to work with them to get the system to function efficiently and effectively, a goal we have not yet achieved in our state. I do not have an ax to grind, except that I want our agencies to deliver the services we mandate them to deliver. I would appreciate your vote for Chair of this important committee and I pledge to work with you and for you. Thank you, Madam President.