

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 13, 2004      LB 625

identify this letter for future reference, is a letter dated October 6, 2003, from the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C., 20410-...well, I don't know whether that's a 2 or a 1, and three 0's following, addressed to Mr. Alfonza Whitaker, executive director, Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission, State Office Building, fifth floor, PO Box 94934, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68509-4934. And this is the letter wherein the writer, who is Mr. David H. Enzel, E-n-z-e-l, deputy assistant secretary for enforcement and programs, raised concerns about comments in a letter from the Nebraska Attorney General which was sent to Mr. Enzel by the director, Mr. Alfonza Whitaker, of the NEOC, in a May 13, 2003 letter. That letter was sent, by the way, to Robbie Herndon and Myrtle Wilson. And the two issues raised by Mr. Enzel were the disclosure of information during an open investigation, and the disclosure of conciliation records. It was made clear that disclosure of conciliation records information is not allowed under HUD rules. The only thing that is public in that regard is the conciliation document itself. That is a public record. And I don't need to go through all of this, because I'm sure they will have a copy on file. And I will do all that I can if there is a recertification review, as there certainly will be, to make sure that a copy of the debate on this bill is placed in the hands of HUD. And I want them to see that Nebraska's Legislature disregarded this letter. And I'm saying for the record, a copy of this letter that I just referenced was placed on the desk of every member of the Legislature just before we began the discussion of LB 625. Every senator had a copy of this letter, along with the cover letter from Mr. Tim Butz. And I will send along a copy of this handout in the same form that I gave it to the senators. So there is a three-page cover letter from Mr. Butz. One of the attachments is the letter from HUD that I referenced. Then there are some documents. The top of one says, page 1 of 1, WAIS document retrieval. The following page, 1 of 2, WAIS document retrieval, which deals with Title 24, that is two pages. Then, on the state of Nebraska letterhead for the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission, is a letter addressed to the senators regarding amendments to LB 625, and it's signed by four commissioners and executive director Alfonza Whitaker. It's dated March 19, 2004. Then there is what appears to be an