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this job. But I have to thank those members who have been on the committee the last two years. You've been very helpful, and we've worked well together. And I'd also like to thank an excellent staff who continues to do good work for the committee. So with that, thank you very much.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Further nominations? Hearing none, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Speaker, members, I move that the nomination be closed and a unanimous vote be taken, by acclamation, for Senator Schimek.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: You have heard the motion. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. Senator Schimek is elected Chair of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Congratulations, Senator Schimek. We will now proceed to the election of the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. Nominations are open. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations on being elected Speaker of this body. I've been on Health and Human Services Committee for the last ten years, serving as Chairman for the last six. It has been an honor and a privilege to head that particular department...or committee. As you know, Health and Human Services represents 37 percent of the state budget, 36 percent of the state employees. So it is the largest group that you have that we oversee. Also in that process, we do regulate and license everything from nurseries to nursing homes, and beyond. And the challenges that we have faced in the past have been great. And I would applaud this body for some of the things that have come about--LB 692, where we took our tobacco settlement dollars and were one of only four states that placed those dollars all into healthcare. Not only did we place it into healthcare, but we placed it into a trust fund which we can fund now \$50 million a year into healthcare into the next century, provided that the Legislatures in the future will follow up on that. We also have passed some mental health reform, long overdue, still in the process. And I appreciate all of you and your work on that issue. So the challenges ahead