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FLOOR DEBATE

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Schaefer as Chief Medical Officer, and Ron Sorensen, Behavioral Health Administrator. (Legislative Journal page 420.)

**SENATOR CUDABACK:** Senator Jensen, Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee, you're recognized to open.

**SENATOR JENSEN:** Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. The Health and Human Services Committee desires to report favorable on the two following appointments. First, Dr. Joann Schaefer to the deputy...or to the Chief Medical Officer and also to the director of Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure. Dr. Schaefer received her M.D. from Creighton University. She is a board-certified family practice. She finished her undergraduate degree at California State University-Fullerton, with a degree in biology and a minor in chemistry. Dr. Schaefer is an assistant professor in the Department of Family Practice at Creighton University school in Omaha, Nebraska. She has also been the director of utilization management for Creighton-St. Joe Partnership in Health, and continues to work on utilization and quality issues. Dr. Schaefer has been contracted by...to be the...or was the Deputy Chief Medical Officer under Dr. Raymond, if you'll recall, and now has been asked to serve the position as Chief Medical Officer. She also has been selected as a young physician leader for Nebraska to the AMA. She's also been honored recently with a nomination for the Woman of Vision Award in Omaha through the YMCA in 2002. Metropolitan Omaha Medical Society also nominated her for Outstanding Young Physician Award from the Nebraska Medical Association. And, to my knowledge, I believe she is the first woman Chief Medical Officer for the state of Nebraska. The second individual is Ronald Sorensen, appointed by Governor Heineman on July 27, 2005, as the Behavioral Health Administrator for the Department of Health and Human Services. He was the interim administrator, Division of the Behavioral Health Services, March 2005 till present, or till he was appointed to this position. Previously, he was deputy administrator, Division of Behavioral Health Services; administrator, Office of Mental Health Substance Abuse and Addiction; prior to that, deputy director for operations, Nebraska Department of Social Services. Mr. Sorensen has a bachelor of science degree from the University of Nebraska here