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FLOOR DEBATE

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Chair of the committee, you're recognized to open on your first report.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I will be reporting actually on 19 different confirmations this morning. That's 19 out of the 35 that we had in Health and Human Services Committee this year, so we've had our share. And the first that I would like to report on is from the Board of Emergency Medical Services, EMS, and the Health and Human Services Committee desires to report favorably upon the following six appointments to the Board of Emergency Medical Services. The committee suggests that the appointments be confirmed by the Legislature, and suggests a record vote. First is Ronald Balthazor, a reappointment for a three-year term. He's a retired sergeant with the Nebraska State Patrol; lives in Lexington; an EMT, also a CPR instructor, a CPR instructor trainer, and a member of the Lexington Fire Department. Next, Bruce Beins, a reappointment for three-year term; a self-employed marina owner and paramedic from Republican City; a graduate of Alma High School; a very active EMS volunteer, advocate for EMS services in rural Nebraska. Third, John Doyle, a new appointment for a one-year term; a firefighter, paramedic and an RN. He lives in Papillion, Nebraska; is employed by the university hospital in Omaha, and the Omaha Fire Department; a graduate of Nebraska Methodist College; retired assistant chief at LaVista Volunteer Fire Department with 13 years of service. Next is Dan Hakel, a reappointment for a three-year term; born in Seward, Nebraska; now lives in West Point; a physician assistant and a graduate of the University of Nebraska Medical Center physician assistant program; employed at St. Francis Memorial Hospital in West Point. He was unable to personally attend, but Senator Connealy appeared in support of his confirmation. Number five is Val Snyder, a reappointment for a three-year term; a service technician with KN Energy in Scottsbluff; a graduate of Kimball High School; a 17-year member of the Gering Volunteer Fire Department; a CPR and a first aid instructor. And number six is Dr. George Surber, an MD, a reappointment for a three-year term; a physician specializing in family practice and occupational medicine in Norfolk; medical director for the Norfolk Fire and Rescue, Northeastern (sic) Community College EMS training program, and several local rescue