TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 14, 2006 LB 1060

state go out and ask for RFPs once more. And in a competitive process now...and I don't know exactly how that works with Department of Health and Human Services, because I don't think they look just at dollars. I think there is a scoring process. And I don't know and I can find out more about that, should anyone ask me, or there are people from Health and Human Services behind the glass that you could ask them. But we do need more testing, and we need it in places where people can go, I think, without any...well, that they would feel comfortable.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: And I think that's also very, very important. I've been out here at the Lancaster County public health facility, and they have some very young individuals that come into that facility and that are able to get testing. That's great. Now not all public health entities across the state can provide these services, but there are some that do, and some that perhaps can. But we need to, above all, provide services for more people in more places, and then I think, yes, as a business—and yes, the government is a business—that we need to do this through a competitive RFP process. With that, I think the amendment was acceptable, at least to the majority, not all, of the individuals from the Health and Human Services Committee, and that is what is before us at this time. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Foley, followed by Senator Erdman, Senator Brown. Senator Foley.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Thank you, Senator Jensen, for your speech. That helps to clarify a great deal of the confusion, I think, that's being deliberately offered on the floor. I think some senators are deliberately trying to confuse you as to what this amendment really is about. They're trying to say, look, what Foley is really doing here, he's trying to assault the family planning programs in Nebraska. That's nonsense. Read the amendment. Look at page 2 of the amendment, the underscored language. It lists the healthcare providers that are eligible to apply for funding under this program. Local public health departments, federally qualified