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Transcriber's Office

Education Committee  
March 06, 2008

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[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on Education met at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2008, in Room 1525 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of gubernatorial appointments. Senators present: Ron Raikes, Chairperson; Gail Kopplin, Vice Chairperson; Greg Adams; Brad Ashford; Bill Avery; Carroll Burling; Gwen Howard; and Joel Johnson. Senators absent: none. []

SENATOR RAIKES: Good morning, welcome to this hearing of the Education Committee in the Nebraska Legislature. This morning we have before us the task of conducting four confirmation hearings, one for the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges and three for the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Very quickly, our committee, for those of you here: Senator Brad Ashford, Omaha; Senator Gwen Howard, Omaha; Senator Carroll Burling, Kenesaw; Tammy Barry, committee's legal counsel; Ron Raikes, District 25; our committee's Vice Chair, Gail Kopplin from Gretna; Senator Greg Adams, York; Senator Joel Johnson, Kearney; and Senator Bill Avery from Lincoln; and committee clerk, there he comes, Kris Valentin. So that's our crew, and we'll do this consistent with our practice, which is we'll ask the person being heard for confirmation to give us a little presentation, then we'll allow for questions by the committee, proponent testimony, opponent testimony, and close the hearing and move on if that's the way it works out. So I think we're ready to begin, and we have Michelle Suarez. [CONFIRMATION]

MICHELLE SUAREZ: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: It's close. [CONFIRMATION]

MICHELLE SUAREZ: That's one way to say it anyway (laughs). [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. That's not really an endorsement, I wouldn't say (laughter). Okay, she is appointed by the governor to serve on the Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges. So, Michelle, I think I've got that part right. [CONFIRMATION]

MICHELLE SUAREZ: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you for being here and please tell us a little bit about yourself and your interest in this position. [CONFIRMATION]

MICHELLE SUAREZ: (Exhibit 1) Thank you, and thank you for allowing me to be here. I appreciate the opportunity. My name is Michelle Suarez, some of the kids--I'm an elementary school principal--and I give them choice, Michelle Suarez or Michelle Suarez, and a lot of the little kids of course are very capable of saying "Suarez," so I get different pronunciations. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR RAIKES: You're implying I'm not, and you'd be correct (laughter).  
[CONFIRMATION]

MICHELLE SUAREZ: I just have seen kids have a real affinity to be able to pronounce names in whatever way we ask them to. In any case, I was born and raised in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, and I came down the University at age 17 to begin my college career, then went and got my bachelor's degree and taught at Wilber-Clatonia for a couple of years, and then came back to Lincoln, and I've been in education here in Lincoln for 23 years. So for over 25 years I've been in education. I know the value of education. I have five siblings. My husband has nine siblings, and we've seen the value of education throughout our lives. And sometimes it's just that first person in that family if they go to college, then the rest of the siblings will go. So in our case, my oldest brother went to college and then the rest of us five children went to college as well, and so out of the six children, five have college degrees. And in my husband's family, again, it was one family member, he was working at a feedlot, had his three fingers cut off, and had a small settlement, was able to go to Chadron State College. And then because he went, then the rest of the family went. So I just know the value of college education. I know the value of education. I think it's important that we connect our K-12 system to the college system, and I'm hoping that with my service, we can begin to strengthen that connection. I don't know what other questions you might have, but education has been a key piece. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, thank you, Michelle. Are there questions for Michelle?  
Senator Adams. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ADAMS: Michelle, you raised an interesting point there at the conclusion, connecting college with K-12. [CONFIRMATION]

MICHELLE SUAREZ: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ADAMS: How would you envision that possibly happening?  
[CONFIRMATION]

MICHELLE SUAREZ: Well, one thing I'm excited about is we in elementary education, we get them when they're preschool to grade 5 or so, how do we begin to plant the seeds to help them have that vision of going to college? And I think if we have that discussion with our marketing people in higher ed, with people in elementary education I think if we wait until, we're looking at middle school or high school--that's too long. We have to speak to kids as if this is a vision that you can start now, and if they can form that vision earlier--it might be with concrete materials, it might be with presentations, it might be connecting people in terms of careers and college educators coming into our buildings and really working as people and also with materials. This isn't automatic, this

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is what you have to think about. You don't have to do it necessarily, but we want in Nebraska to make sure you have the opportunity and the vision to be able to get to college because that's critical in today. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator Johnson. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ADAMS: Well, on a completely different note, we have the community college system, we have the university system, and the state college system. Where do you see the state college system fitting in to that higher education umbrella? [CONFIRMATION]

MICHELLE SUAREZ: I think it certainly provides a nice option for students. What I see the college system being able to do is provide an affordable, accessible opportunity. It also provides that four-year degree that the community college system of course would not. We also in the state college system try to encourage the community college students to go to get their four-year degree, so that they don't end with a two-year degree, but go on to get that four-year degree. Some people will thrive well in a university environment, it's a big environment, and some people will do better in a smaller environment when you have about 2,500 to 3,000 students. So you're going to get, I think, a more personalized education perhaps, smaller class size I'm guessing in the state college system. But there certainly is a strong place for the University of Nebraska, where you have more research...you have maybe, perhaps you have advanced degrees, you have doctorate degrees that you don't have in that state college system. So I think there's a place for all of those systems, and I think to the extent that we can work together, I think that's going to be stronger for everyone. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ADAMS: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator Johnson. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: You kind of tweaked my memory here about getting students interested in things and so I'm going to share this briefly with you and the committee. I went to hear a Mr. Ballard talk here a few months back, and he is the guy who's done the underseas exploration and found all the old ships and so on, and what he is working on is making it so that while these types of explorations are going on, it's put on a special Internet that then would go to all the schools so that you would have a science class or whatever going on and they would be right there during the exploration and adventure. He finishes his little program with a picture of a girl who is watching this, and she's just...and the picture says it all of how immediately the kids are intrigued by really getting in on the ground floor of it, so there's something in the future that might be really neat. [CONFIRMATION]

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MICHELLE SUAREZ: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Let me ask you, the last I saw statistics on this, we lag in participation rate in higher education for Hispanic students in the state. Is that true, and if so, what do you do about that? [CONFIRMATION]

MICHELLE SUAREZ: Well, I think the research is very clear about how we have to engage students when they're even in elementary, and we have to engage students and their families. But I know one of the things we have to do is create those caring relationships and that's going to be in any field that you work in, but particularly for students of color. Teachers need to go that extra mile to make connections with the family and to let children of color know that they are valued. We have to have that rigorous curriculum, that rigorous education. No excuses, these are the skills and talents and knowledge that you will need to be successful. We need to be really aware of brain-based learning. When kids are safe in a comfortable environment, they're going to learn well. So those are the kinds of things that research clearly tells us that we need to be doing, but I would really put my focus on the relationship that we establish between kids and their families in elementary education and continue that throughout the course of their education. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. Well, thank you for being here and for your willingness to serve in this position. [CONFIRMATION]

MICHELLE SUAREZ: Yes, thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. Is there proponent testimony for Michelle? Opponent testimony? I don't see any, so that will close the hearing on Michelle Suarez. I'm going to have to stick with that, I'm sorry (laughter). We'll move on now to Mary Lauritzen, who is a candidate to continue in her service with the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Mary, welcome, and please tell us a little bit about yourself and your interest in continuing. [CONFIRMATION]

MARY LAURITZEN: (Exhibit 2) Thank you, good morning. You know how to pronounce my name, most people in Nebraska do, but I'll swear it's whatever version of "Lauritzen" is pronounced, and I'm not of that Lauritzen clan, so (laughter), but I am reappointed to the Coordinating Commission and I'm pleased to say. I live in West Point, Nebraska, northeast Nebraska, 90 miles north of here. A small town, I represent probably the smallest community that is represented by commissioners. I grew up in Gary, Indiana, but you marry someone from Nebraska and you follow them, so that's what I did 38 years ago. In my real life, I am an office manager of Family Vision Center and Optometry Clinic in West Point. We have offices in Wisner and Oakland. And from that work I have been involved in the function of making sure that children are visually ready to learn before they enter school, so preschool age groups have been a focus of mine

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for a long time, and has resulted in 2005 in legislation that requires a kindergarten vision evaluation, you might remember that little activity. But what that does in my work on the commission, I see it as kind of a fruition of what I do at the Coordinating Commission. You learn all your life, and I like that Ms. Suarez had mentioned preschool through college and the education world looking at the P-16, 24, lifelong model, because it's true. It's all ongoing, there's no segments anymore. We have to think seamless. And in Nebraska, we can't afford to risk anybody to not being able to drive a bus or run a business or do whatever it takes to be involved as a citizen. So, on the Coordinating Commission our first responsibility, at least my philosophy is we are the ones that protect the taxpayers' \$600 million investment in higher ed. Our other side on the Coordinating Commission is that the state colleges, community colleges, and university are peers; they are equal. They bring a huge amount of contribution to the state of Nebraska and beyond. So it's our pleasure to recommend and approve and do the work we do in regard to curriculum and capital construction projects and such. So it's pretty full circle in what we do on the commission. I was appointed in 2000 by Governor Johanns and I'm thankful to be reappointed by Governor Heineman this year, so it's a long run but you need that. And I've watched that world of higher ed change in Nebraska, and I'm a firm believer that not everyone can be a brain surgeon or a nuclear physicist. We need people who know how to fix tractors, we need people who know how to triage sick people, we need people who know how to run small businesses and small communities, but we need people involved. So I can see the Nebraska higher education world as providing that. So I'm pleased to be able to serve again. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. Thank you, Mary. Questions for Mary? Senator Adams.  
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ADAMS: You said a moment ago, you've seen the world of higher education change. How? [CONFIRMATION]

MARY LAURITZEN: The growth in our population in Nebraska, as you well know, is not birth rate anymore, it's immigration. And you had asked the question previously about, for example, to select a specific demographic, the Hispanic students. The changes come from a different population that needs to find postsecondary education. I'm heartened by the fact that what I've seen change in the last five years is a move toward really being realistic about Hispanic students entering postsecondary ed, because they're finishing high school. They're staying in grade school, they're staying in high school and they're going on. I run an optometry clinic in a small town. We have a high Hispanic population. Yesterday, I had to work two patients around their schedule at Wayne State College because, and they were both Hispanic students and they work as well. That's what we see at the grassroots level, and that's where the change is coming. So that's one change. The other change is the abundance of property owned by education in Nebraska, old buildings that have been converted and reconverted and converted once more that may not be able to stand another conversion as technology

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changes and as requirements for study change and as funding issues change and how we do these things, I've seen that change over the last eight years, from the time I started until now. So our future is going to be, well, we're going to have to write a new rule book on how to do these things in the world of education, and so we need people who are ready to do that and be able to make those decisions, tough ones.  
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator Ashford. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ASHFORD: What a tragedy, isn't it, that our government has failed to recognize the contribution of young, Hispanic children, federally. [CONFIRMATION]

MARY LAURITZEN: Oh, yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ASHFORD: Certainly, what a great resource, no matter how they got here. They have contributed so significantly in our city in Omaha, and I know across the state and your comments are thoughtful. [CONFIRMATION]

MARY LAURITZEN: I see it first hand. I do school vision screenings in the schools around our area. I've screened hundreds of kids over the years, vision screenings, and it's been wonderful to see the assimilation of the populations, and that includes years ago when the clusters of Hispanic students were together and not able to speak English and needed another student to help them. And now the movement is they're accentless English speakers, which for whatever purpose I said that, I think people who speak accented English are fluent in at least two languages, so they beat me. But nevertheless, the groups...the populations have blended, so the strength of our communities is going to come from... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ASHFORD: I wish other people in the state could hear you speak. []  
[CONFIRMATION]

MARY LAURITZEN: I know what you're, yes, I know what you're referring to. However, it comes from the grassroots, it comes from the base, and so be patient everybody. It will come. Let it become other people's decisions... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ASHFORD: Well, I just think you're making very thoughtful comments.  
[CONFIRMATION]

MARY LAURITZEN: Well, thank you, I appreciate you saying that. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ASHFORD: And for me, it's an important lesson for some of the people in our state to realize how we all got here, and... [CONFIRMATION]

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MARY LAURITZEN: Bingo. Yes. I'm a second-generation American, I get that really well. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR ASHFORD: Well, thank you for your comments. [CONFIRMATION]

MARY LAURITZEN: Certainly. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator Johnson. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: I just have one question. [CONFIRMATION]

MARY LAURITZEN: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Is there a significant differential in the Hispanic kids finishing high school and going to college? I think I've heard where it's pretty predominantly women. Is that true? [CONFIRMATION]

MARY LAURITZEN: Lucky for you, on Monday you're going to receive a progress report that has been developed by the Coordinating Commission that describes college-going rates and breaks it down that finely, so it's going to be...you'll see those numbers and you'll see, again, it's kind of an evolutionary process, and an emerging process, so when you look at it with those eyes. In anecdotal, personal experience, yes, it's women. But the men work and they work hard and they pay their bills, and they do the things that good citizens need to do. So we need to make the opportunities for education available. So I think you'll be pleased when you see that progress report the information that's given. Coordinating Commission, again, another thing I have to say about it, no one else would produce those kinds of reports. In this entire state, there's no other entity that can produce the information the Coordinating Commission can give. So... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, thank you very much, Mary, for being here... [CONFIRMATION]

MARY LAURITZEN: You're welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: ...and bringing us up to date. I commend you for your service to this point, and thank you for your willingness to continue. [CONFIRMATION]

MARY LAURITZEN: I appreciate that, thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Is there proponent testimony? Opponent testimony? That will close the hearing for Mary Lauritzen, and we'll move to Richard Uhing. Richard, welcome. Please tell us a little about yourself and your interest in the Coordinating Commission.

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[CONFIRMATION]

RICHARD UHING: (Exhibit 3) Good morning, senators. My name is Richard Uhing. I grew up in Hartington, Nebraska on a dairy farm. From there, I went to Northeast Community College, graduated with an associate's degree, and then I went to Chadron State College and graduated with a BS in education. Later on, I got an MBA from Wayne State College. I'm employed by Norfolk Beverage, president of the company of Norfolk Beverage, and we employ 30 people and we're the distribution center. We cover 70 towns in northeast Nebraska and 13 counties. We really strongly at Norfolk Beverage believe in continuing education. We have free tuition for any of our employees to continue their education, be it associate degree, lifelong learning classes, bachelors degree, etcetera. I've been on the Coordinating Commission since October of '06. I'm relatively new to the Commission, but it's been a very good experience for me. And some of the experiences that I enjoy is having a daughter that's a freshman at UNO, I can see her growth and the role of the state colleges and the universities and the development that's going on. Also, I have an 11 year-old son and then a 15 year-old son, and I'm really excited on what the university and the state colleges can offer here in the state of Nebraska. I'm on the curriculum committee, and one of our things that we do is we make recommendations, because we want the tax dollars to work very well in the state of Nebraska and we do not want duplications, but we also want to bring different, available subjects and ways of learning in the communities, whether it's northeast Nebraska, western Nebraska, or in Omaha or Lincoln. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, Richard. Thank you for your comments. Are there questions for Richard? Senator Howard. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, sir. Not really a question, but I think it's terrific if your company offers educational opportunities for people. Is that for everyone that's employed there? [CONFIRMATION]

RICHARD UHING: Yes, it is. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: That's really good. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

RICHARD UHING: We feel the foundation of our growth is with the knowledge we bring to the company. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: I like that you practice what you preach. That's good. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Any other questions or comments? Thank you, Richard, for being here, and thank you also for your willingness to serve in this position. [CONFIRMATION]

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RICHARD UHING: Thank you, sir. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Is there proponent testimony? Opponent testimony? Okay, that will close the hearing for Richard Uhing, and we'll move to Tim Hodges. Timothy, please come forward. Welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HODGES: (Exhibit 4) Hi. My name is Tim Hodges and I'm from Gretna, you might have heard of that place before. Grew up on a farrow-to-finish farming operation in Julian, Nebraska, which you probably haven't heard of--about 10 miles south of Nebraska City. Attended a Class I school, which I know you've heard of, until about seventh grade and then moved to Nebraska City and completed high school there. Came to the university as a agribusiness major and completed bachelor's degree there and also a master's in leadership education, and have completed coursework and comprehensive exams and everything towards a doctorate in leadership through the business school. Have a meeting on Thursday with my dissertation advisor and we're getting going with that part of it as well. So I was in Lincoln during college and started working at the Gallup organization back in January of 2000, so I've been with Gallup now for, I'm in my eighth year, and just love the work that we do there. My role at Gallup is to oversee a group of about 100 folks who design curriculum and teach classes for mostly managers and leaders and salespeople who are interested in ongoing education. As you know, Gallup's not an accredited university or provider of academic credits in that way, but ongoing leadership development, management development. So it's been fun for me to be involved in that and study both from the academic perspective and also from the application perspective and what it really looks like in practice. So it's been neat for me to really learn that. I was appointed to the commission to fill another commissioner's term two or three years ago. And I've been appointed to serve a full term here, so this would be my first full term, but have served on the commission for the last two or three years. I chaired the academic programs committee last year and am currently vice chair for the commission and also served on the planning consumer information committee last year and have continued on serving with different committees here this year. I guess in terms of looking back on our year, the last year or two, I've been excited about the work we've done with Access College Early that Senator Harms proposed and as a way to help students who are in high school to take classes that do award college credit and have some funding that helps them through that as you think about especially underserved populations in the state. It's a nice way for them to build some confidence by entering college already having a handful of credits on their transcript, and in some cases entering where they're maybe even sophomore status by midterm because they've been able to be efficient in the way that they've managed that transition from high school to college, and I think that's a big opportunity for us in the future as well. I'm very interested also in online education and what kinds of things the demographic trends are going to have to say about that and the kinds of things that we need to do as leaders in education to ensure that we don't

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sacrifice quality as we do provide more options for delivery. In my master's program, I had a couple classes that were offered online, the professor was right on campus--I lived about four blocks from east campus--and could stop by their offices any time I needed to, but didn't ever have to ever actually go to a physical classroom, and that was back in 2000. I've got a 3 year-old son now that could earn bachelor's, master's, and probably a doctorate without ever leaving his bedroom. I think the quality will continue to increase... and where Bellevue University today, they've been one of the leaders in the state in terms of online degree programs and putting things together that way. So I've been real interested and excited about some of the developments there, and it's been nice to see the rigor of online education increase and provide options for students who logistically have a hard time making it to even the town where the classes are offered, or certainly the time as we look at a lot of people who are working and attending school at the same. So some of thoughts, I'd be glad to answer any questions you might have. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, thank you, Timothy. Senator Burling has a question. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR BURLING: Good morning, Timothy. Thank you for coming today to appear before us. My question is recently there has been some ideas floating around about putting all higher education under Board of Regents. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HODGES: Um-hum. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR BURLING: That idea has never really gotten legs under it, but it's out there. You want to comment on that? [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HODGES: Yeah, I mean, I know there's people who studied the issue and all it would entail closer than I have, but I know there's a lot of ways that the different systems can work together. Each of them were established for a specific purpose and they continue to serve those purposes. I do think there's efficiencies in the system, whether it means putting everybody together under one administrative umbrella or looking at things. Most recent example I can think of is this whole student record system that you've seen and looked at the budgets around that. There's things like that where if the community colleges, state colleges, and university system can come together, submit one RFP and have all the student records under one administrative umbrella, that makes a lot of sense. There's a lot to be said about how governing bodies are selected, whether it be appointments or elected, and that kind of thing. So that serves a purpose, and each of the campuses have different reasons to exist. But there certainly needs to be a lot more pressure and emphasis and recognition of the efforts where they are working together whether it be to drive down the administrative cost it takes to manage those kind of systems or to collaborate as it pertains to partnership programs where maybe Southeast Community College has a partnership with the University of

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Nebraska to make an easy transition for the student. A few months ago, Governor Heineman spoke with our group and talked a little bit about boomerang students, and he referenced his son as one of those students who's attended classes at several universities. But it'd sure be possible that you could take a couple of classes at Southeast Community College, one at UNL, one from Wayne State, and one online from Chadron State all in the same semester, and we need to have ways that really build systems that have the student in mind, because none of those universities or colleges or community colleges necessarily think about that student as a full-time student in their target population. But as a state, as we move those students through, at some point someone's going to be able to award a degree to them, so we need to make it as seamless as possible and accept that the realities of every student showing up on campus, to live on campus, and take 15 credits a semester, that's one model and certainly a model I expect will exist for a long time, maybe forever, but we've got to really think about ease of systems so we don't lose people between the different administrative units. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Any other questions? Oh, Gwen, yes. Senator Howard.  
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Senator Raikes. I'd like to know just a little bit more about your involvement with the Royal Family Kids Camp. Can you tell us about that and your participation? [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HODGES: Sure. That's a nonprofit organization, it's a national organization that offers a summer camp every year for abused and neglected kids. We come up with the names of kids from the foster care system from Health and Human Services and it's a week long residential camp out, it's called Camp Covenant Cedars, out by Polk, Nebraska. And it's a week long residential camp, my wife actually does the curriculum design and provides the programming for the kids that are ages, I believe, 8 to 11. And I've been involved from fundraising, helping to write some grants to raise funds. It's about \$40,000 to put on the camp, and then there's two other camps for kids that have gone past that specific age group but have built relationships with the counselors and they still want to stay involved. So it's something I do for fun and something my wife and I have been able to serve together with, but it's something I really feel strongly about and have been privileged to be able to be a part of that the last three years.  
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HODGES: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator Johnson. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR JOHNSON: One last question to finish up the morning. You said that you lived in a small town about 10 miles south of Nebraska City. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HODGES: Uh-huh. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: The neighboring town is Brock. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HODGES It sure is. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: What was its original name? [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HODGES: Boy, that's a great question. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Podunk. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HODGES: Podunk. No kidding? My grandpa was a minister at the church in Brock, I'll have to quiz him on that, see if he passes your quiz or not (laughter). [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Well, from one preacher's kid to another. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HODGES: There we go, Podunk, Nebraska. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: I don't see any other questions, Tim. Thank you very much... [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HODGES: Okay. Sure. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: ...for being here and also for your willingness to serve on the commission. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HODGES: Absolutely. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR RAIKES: Proponent testimony? Opponent testimony? That will close the hearing for Tim Hodges and the hearings for the morning. Thank you all for being here and your ability to withstand this vicious cross-examination (laughter). Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

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Chairperson

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Committee Clerk

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