

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Health and Human Services Committee
April 13, 2011

[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on Health and Human Services met at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2011, in Room 1510 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing for gubernatorial appointments. Senators present: Kathy Campbell, Chairperson; Mike Gloor, Vice Chairperson; Dave Bloomfield; Gwen Howard; and Bob Krist. Senators absent: Tanya Cook; and Norm Wallman.

KATHY CAMPBELL: (Recorder malfunction) ...Kathy Campbell from the committee, and...of the Health and Human Services Committee. And we were just going to visit with you a little bit about your appointment to the Foster Care Review Board.

[CONFIRMATION]

JILL REEL: Wonderful. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I will introduce the senators. Usually we introduce ourselves, but it might be hard for...can you hear all right? [CONFIRMATION]

JILL REEL: I can hear great. [CONFIRMATION]

KATHY CAMPBELL: Okay. Senator Dave Bloomfield is with us; Senator Mike Gloor; Senator Gwen Howard; and Senator Bob Krist as well as our legal counsel and our clerk, Diane Johnson; and our legal counsel, Michelle Chaffee. So we want to say how much we appreciate your willingness to serve on the Foster Care Review Board. This would be a new appointment. Can you tell us a little bit about your interest in serving on the Foster Care Review Board? [CONFIRMATION]

JILL REEL: Well, I'm a pediatrician at Boys Town Pediatrics in Omaha, and I've dedicated, you know, my life to the healthcare of children. I'm recently finished on the Project Harmony Board for over ten years, and my friend, Joann Schaefer, asked me if I would be interested. I've always had several foster care families in my practice, and I think this would be...I'm anxious to learn a lot about it and to be involved.

[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Well, we certainly do appreciate your willingness to do that. Are there questions from the committee for Dr. Reel that you'd like to ask this afternoon? Dr. Reel...oh, I'm sorry, Senator Krist. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Hi, Jill. I just wanted to thank you for your willingness to serve. And can you talk to us about...you said you had foster kids in your practice. Can you talk to us maybe about something that is special with a foster child, different in terms of pediatric care? Can you characterize anything that would be an anomaly there?

[CONFIRMATION]

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JILL REEL: Well, I do view the foster care children, you know, as special needs. You know, they've come, obviously, from broken families where there's been problems with drugs and alcohol. A lot of times they do have more problems than other children. It's not just their upbringing, but maybe they themselves have been exposed as babies to drugs and alcohol. There does seem to be more psychological needs, attention deficit disorder, anxiety, depression, so they can be more complicated. A lot of times in the media, I think our foster parents, you know, get a bad rap, and I've had the pleasure of having some wonderful foster care parents. And I've had several for many years so. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Great answer. Thank you, and we'll welcome you aboard. [CONFIRMATION]

JILL REEL: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Senator Howard. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you. Doctor, I'm wondering if you're seeing more children that you would consider to be fetal alcohol spectrum disorder children? [CONFIRMATION]

JILL REEL: Maybe a few more. It's, you know, been a problem for years. Maybe more than just alcohol, which is one that's more easily identifiable. There's probably more now that we can't identify, because with fetal alcohol, a lot of times there maybe is that history, or the way they look. But now it will be interesting for like methamphetamines and other drugs that were maybe not completely clear on what...you know, what the presentation is, so... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Well, and I can appreciate how difficult it is to make a diagnosis or to put that out there as the presenting problem when you don't have the history on the parents. I think that's a critical factor for making any of those diagnoses, but thank you for the work you're doing. [CONFIRMATION]

JILL REEL: Well, thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Senator Gloor. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Dr. Reel, this is Senator Gloor. This is not my normal voice (laughter). Excuse me. Do you have just a general pediatric practice or is there an area that you try and specialize in? [CONFIRMATION]

JILL REEL: I am a general pediatrician. I've finished my residency at the medical center

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in Creighton in 1992. Our clinic, in general, but maybe even me more so, I do a lot of the attention deficit. I think that's the thing that's most surprised me since finishing residency is how much true ADHD, anxiety, depression can really be in children as well, that it is a chemical imbalance. You know, just like diabetes or other things, we can help these kids, help them to be successful in school and successful in life. So I would say that's the thing that I probably have a strength there. Maybe from not accepting those things...maybe a lot of us were raised...that it's poor parenting, but maybe...you know, there is definitely more to it than that. And, so I've had a strong interest. I go to a lot of meetings on the psychological or psychiatric aspect of children. I've always had an interest in genetics. It's another area of interest. I have asthma and allergies, so I feel strong there (laugh). But I am a general pediatrician; and if everyone doesn't know it, Boys Town--we have several clinics, and we mostly see the general population. A few of our other partners see more of the youth at Boys Town. We will see them now and then, but mostly, we see general pediatrics in Omaha. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, and by the way, say hello to my friend, Tom Tonniges, if you would. [CONFIRMATION]

JILL REEL: Okay, will do. He's a good guy. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Yeah, good fellow. [CONFIRMATION]

JILL REEL: Yeah. I did an outstate rotation with him in Hastings years ago, and it was an awesome experience. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: I saw that on your CV and was suspicious that you'd connected there, and that's the reason he ended up back in Omaha. [CONFIRMATION]

JILL REEL: Okay. (Laugh) Well, maybe so. I don't know. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Dr. Reel, this is Senator Campbell, again, and Dr. Tonniges has spent some time talking to a number of senators about his concern that foster care children come to him, and they've got reams and reams and reams of medical files, and a long list of medications, and concerned about the fact that we don't share more information between physicians for foster care children. Have you also seen that in some of the families you served? [CONFIRMATION]

JILL REEL: I think my children who are adopted from overseas, I actually get better records and more records, and we are allowed, in a way, to do more investigation on my adoptions from overseas. I think this is an area that we really need to work on. I would say I don't get any past medical records. It's very difficult. It is getting a little more easy to now get their shot records, but I think more the lack of records is what I would see, and not the reams and reams of, you know, information. I don't...my children that I

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have...maybe I get them as younger. He is probably seeing a lot of the Boys Town youths that are older. Mine do not come in on a lot of medication. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Yes. That would be true, Dr. Reel. And I know he has talked about trying to create some kind of network across the state in which we link physicians who have a number of foster care...they serve a number of foster care children or youth to begin building some network of information, which I always thought was a really good idea, but we have not yet pulled it together. But if you have about 30 minutes, he certainly will tell you all about that (laugh). [CONFIRMATION]

JILL REEL: (Laugh) I know he will. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: (Laugh) Any other questions for Dr. Reel? Dr. Reel, I just have one quick one, and then we'll let you get back to your patients. Could you tell me what, under your employment you were at...Kids Care in Fremont. What was Kids Care? [CONFIRMATION]

JILL REEL: Kids Care was a pediatric clinic, so out-of-residency Dr. George Dunham was there, and I joined him. And it was a great experience. After getting out of residency, I assisted C-sections, attended deliveries that maybe were having more complications, intubated, put in lines in young infants or children that were critical. So it was a great extension to the critical care we've been trained in general pediatrics at the Med Center in Creighton. I owned the practice, ran the practice as a new person out of residency...did that 2.5 years. It really seemed like a lifetime. It was a great experience. I had two babies of my own at that time, so I was very busy. I then left Fremont, though I still live in Arlington, and have joined Boys Town where I have lots of wonderful partners, lots of resources, and I'm an employee (laugh). [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I do understand that. Well, Dr. Reel, we'll let you get back to your practice and, once again, I know I echo the thanks from everyone here. We appreciate very much your commitment to serve on the Foster Care Review Board. And you have a great day. [CONFIRMATION]

JILL REEL: Well, thank you, and I'm really looking forward to it, really looking forward to learning a lot and being a part of it. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Excellent. Thank you and goodbye. [CONFIRMATION]

JILL REEL: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Okay. We will move to the next candidate, Mr. Delts. Okay. Mr. Delts, just have a chair. For the record, Mr. Delts is a candidate for the commission on the...for the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. And this is a reappointment,

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is that correct? [CONFIRMATION]

DILLARD DELTS: That's correct. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Could you tell me a little bit about what you think have been the big issues as you have served on the commission? [CONFIRMATION]

DILLARD DELTS: Oh, I'll just start with when I first was before the board three years ago. I believe one of the first things I wanted to do was help (inaudible) people, about (inaudible) and with (inaudible). So when I joined, I hadn't always (inaudible) what was going to happen for the director who decided to retire. And I was a part of the group that hired the (inaudible) director (inaudible)(laugh). Dr. (inaudible), he had been about to reach out and contact a lot of people. She set up a lot of good programs. I can't think of a better person who would (inaudible) the job right now. She's helping us move forward with getting in touch with more people in western Nebraska. As (inaudible) number of people who have, (inaudible) from (inaudible) to completely deaf (inaudible) in Nebraska over the last four years. So we are now (inaudible) serve a lot more people, (inaudible) to reach out to them, (inaudible) help them. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: That's excellent, just excellent. Questions from the senators for Mr. Delts? So what do you think are the issues that will be coming before you? [CONFIRMATION]

DILLARD DELTS: One of the (inaudible) will be those returning from the military (inaudible), some of them are not going to be used to it. So, the biggest issue would be helping them get used to it (inaudible). This is going to (inaudible), you're going to have a new lifestyle, providing information where they can get help, who is available, and letting those who are close to them know. If they're not willing to do it themselves, we can show them other ways to get (inaudible). So that's probably the (inaudible) that we're going to focus on. The next thing we're trying to do is make sure children in school are getting (inaudible), so that (inaudible). (Inaudible) the board of (inaudible) is providing some services, but we have heard from parents who say (inaudible) the education their children are getting (inaudible). When we hear from the parents, we're going to (inaudible) do something about that, try to help improve it. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: That's just an excellent point about the military. Senator Krist served our country in the military, and is a good advocate for services for them, so I appreciate you bringing that up as a problem. It's not something that we might have thought of. Excellent. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Just excellent. Senator Gloor. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR GLOOR: Do you have an opinion about cochlear implants?
[CONFIRMATION]

DILLARD DELTS: Well, personally, I never tried them, but they're good. They are good. (inaudible) people who have had them...they're (inaudible), but I understand it depends on the (inaudible). In my case, I'm completely deaf, so it's not going to do anything for me. At the most, I'm probably going to know where the sounds are coming from, if it's a male or female. That's about it. A (inaudible) told me, so I don't think it's going to be worth it for me to do that...if I'm not going to hear on the phone. However, (inaudible) people (inaudible) them. It can help them and their (inaudible)...completely against them. Yes, it would be beneficial. It depends on the individual. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Okay. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

DILLARD DELTS: You're welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Mr. Delts, one of the new appointments to the commission is a professor from the University of Nebraska at Kearney, and she just had one...
[CONFIRMATION]

DILLARD DELTS: Fine. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...put in about a year ago, and I think she'll be an excellent addition. The committee thoroughly enjoyed visiting with her, so I think she'll be very helpful. [CONFIRMATION]

DILLARD DELTS: I have met her, and, yes, she is helpful. We had a (inaudible) person with the (inaudible) implants, and it was...she had (inaudible), so she kind of replaced him. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Oh, that's good. [CONFIRMATION]

DILLARD DELTS: (Inaudible) anything, so that's good. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Well, Mr. Delts, you must have done an excellent job on your first service, and we appreciate your willingness to be reappointed, and thank you for stepping forward and coming to visit with us today. [CONFIRMATION]

DILLARD DELTS: Thank you for having me. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Enjoy the day. Next we will have Amy...and I'm still...I still didn't hear...listen close enough to that. [CONFIRMATION]

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AMY KASCH: Amy Kasch. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Kasch? [CONFIRMATION]

AMY KASCH: Kasch, just like money. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Just like money. [CONFIRMATION]

AMY KASCH: Money, yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Well, welcome to the committee, and yours is a new appointment, right? You have not served on the commission before. [CONFIRMATION]

AMY KASCH: No, I have not. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Okay. What brought you to serve on the commission? [CONFIRMATION]

AMY KASCH: Pretty much from my past experience, is that I would...I love to help kids especially, and from what I've been through in the past, I'm hoping that this will be a good advantage for me to help the kids today to make them better than what...from what I went through. Because when I went through...I'm hard of hearing, and I wasn't diagnosed until I was seven years old. So, from when I see the kids today that are hard of hearing, it's totally different from deaf, being deaf. Because when you're deaf, you cannot hear nothing--nothing. But when you're hard of hearing, you have the aids, I'm in your world, but when I have them off, I'm in the deaf world, so it's kind of 50-50. So I'm kind of playing here and there. So when you're socializing, that's when it gets hard, because you don't completely understand what they're saying, and so you're assuming a lot of things. And that's when things...that's when people like me get hurt, and so, I want to show them they don't do that, and don't be afraid to say what they're saying, and don't make your self esteem go down, because how do I explain this? It's just that it's more like a psychology. Oh, my gosh, I'm stuck. I just want to help those kids to say, don't be ashamed, and don't make yourself look bad, and be brave. You got to be strong, and I was taught that this is a hearing world. I've been in an institute for two years, and that's what they taught us. We had to learn how to talk, and I thought that was awesome. And when I have seen the education that they're (inaudible) for the deaf, I think we could do better. But I think they need people that have been through it to see that, and I hope I would be that example. They need to see it, and they just don't know that we're out there. And I would like to put my foot out and say, okay. Can I do something to help? I'm kind of stuck with where to get started and (inaudible) maybe and communicate with him and say, you know, what can we do? Do I need to go out to schools? Do we need to do this and this and that? I would be more than happy to and

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share them my experience. I said, maybe we should try this, or maybe we should try that. I encourage deaf and hard-of-hearing kids to go to hearing school. However, I think there are kids that do need special education as far as like deaf school, because the deaf kids, they do need to sign. It's just like Dillard, and they do need that. But at a deaf school, they need to be taught that this is a hearing world, so when you go to a grocery store, you're not going to find a deaf salesman or clerk. They need to learn, and they have to be strong and not be shy, and not depend on other people like Mom, Dad, brother, and sister. They need to do it. That's where I'm at. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Excellent. Excellent. You would be a great and are a great role model, not only for those who are hard of hearing... [CONFIRMATION]

AMY KASCH: Role model, that's what I'm looking for. Right. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...but also for children who can hear, because oftentimes they need to hear from other people what the world of their fellow student is. So, thank you for being willing to step out and help other children. That's excellent. Questions? Senator Krist. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Hi. What brought you to Nebraska? [CONFIRMATION]

AMY KASCH: I was transferred. I'm sorry, my stepfather was transferred here to Nebraska. Oh, gosh, it was back in the '80s, and I've been here since then. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: He left you when he left? [CONFIRMATION]

AMY KASCH: I'm sorry? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: He left you when he left? I'm kidding. Your stepfather was transferred here. Was he in the military? [CONFIRMATION]

AMY KASCH: Yes, he was transferred here from Indiana. We moved several times. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Well, welcome, and thank you. I think you'll be a great mentor and a great example. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Other questions from the senators? I have one last question, Ms. Kasch. Your employment and where you work, you work with older people. [CONFIRMATION]

AMY KASCH: Yes, that's right. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR CAMPBELL: I bet you're a great role model for them too. [CONFIRMATION]

AMY KASCH: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Do you find that sometimes helping them when they may be losing their hearing at an older age, I bet you are very helpful to them. [CONFIRMATION]

AMY KASCH: Okay. Here's (inaudible) with the older people. They don't like wearing it, because they don't like people seeing it. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Oh. [CONFIRMATION]

AMY KASCH: And it's like, oh, my gosh. Are you kidding me? What are these? You got to put the glasses on, so, I mean (laughter). See, that's what I mean, and just like the shame of it in some...but there are things out there that it just... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Too hard. [CONFIRMATION]

AMY KASCH: We encourage them to have the hearing aids. It will make everybody less...I mean, they will drive them crazy. And we're going, huh, huh, what? What, huh, huh, what? But they have...they've been asked if they have hearing aids. They refuse it, or it's too expensive, or there's all kinds of reasons. But...and some of them do have hearing aids, but then they lose it, and that's another thing. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Well, Ms. Kasch, thank you so much for stepping forward and willing to serve on the board. We are grateful for all of Nebraska people who come and help and serve on our advisory boards. If, at any time, you have information that you think we need to know as senators on this committee, I hope that you'll feel free to contact any one of us. And you're going to be just great. [CONFIRMATION]

AMY KASCH: How would they do that? Do they e-mail you or what? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Sure, absolutely, absolutely. We're on the Web. The Legislature has a Web site, and all the senators are listed, their e-mails, phone numbers. You feel free to call us. [CONFIRMATION]

AMY KASCH: Okay. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you very much for coming today. Okay. Our last candidate today is Janet Coleman, and Ms. Coleman is accompanied today by Mr. Doug Campbell, who, if you know Mary Campbell...they are related to each other.

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[CONFIRMATION]

JANET COLEMAN: And he's a friend of mine. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Yes, and a good friend of mine also, but the two Campbell's are not related here (laugh). Ms. Coleman, thank you so much for coming today. You are a reappointment. Thankfully, you're willing to continue. For my colleagues, Ms. Coleman is probably one of the experts in the state of Nebraska on the 407 process. I've learned a lot in the last year or so from her, so tell us how you got to the State Board of Health. [CONFIRMATION]

JANET COLEMAN: That's kind of a long story. I was appointed originally...my first dealings with healthcare were an appointment to the Lincoln General Hospital Board of Directors. I don't even like to think how long ago that was. There was a woman there then, so you can do that figuring. I was appointed to that board, and I have just kind of continued on. I was then appointed to some other things. I've served on the Board of Health, and this is my second term on the Board of Health--second, my reappointment term, so it will be ten years, and then I'm through. I've done pretty much everything that can be done in the 407 process. I've been involved, I think, as I said before, I think I've been involved in every aspect of the 407 process. I've been on a technical committee; I've chaired a technical committee; I've been on the Nebraska Credentialing Reform Committee, which led to some of the recommendations for 407, and then I've been on the Board of Health and served as chair of the Credentialing Committee. I actually think the Board of Health is an incredibly important organization, and as any of you would know, I often say I'm a public member, and the only reason for the Board of Health is to protect the public. So I feel...I'm not exactly quiet. I feel a real obligation to protect the public in every aspect of the Board of Health decisions, so I think that probably everyone on the board knows that I'm going to represent the public. I'm a strong believer in the Board of Health, and I'm a strong believer in the protection of the public. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Ms. Coleman has been very active in the community as well. And for Senator Krist, who had to be absent that day, Ms. Coleman was one of the presenters who gave us our orientation on the 407, so. Ms. Coleman, as you look into the future about the state Board of Health, what are several issues that come to your mind about...that you think are going to become big issues? [CONFIRMATION]

JANET COLEMAN: Well, there are always things, I think, that are going to come forward that are going to be changes in what...basically, what's the 407 process. I think there are going to be changes, and I think that's going to happen. There are going to be a lot of changes in 407. That law has been around for a long time with very few changes in it and like...I think like any legislative bill, it probably needs to be updated from time to time. We've found some things that should be changed. So I think that's always going to

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be an issue, because that's one of the primary concerns of the Board of Health is the licensing of all of the different areas. I personally would like to see the Board of Health expanded, not necessarily in terms of the number of members, but in terms of the number of the professions that are represented on the board. There are some licensed professions that are never represented on the Board of Health, and I'm not sure how you do that, but there certainly are lots of mental health physicians, for example. And you have either a psychologist or you have a licensed mental health practitioner on the board; you don't have both of them. So they kind of alternate, supposedly, every ten years you get one from the different professions. That's one of the areas that I think probably there should be some changes in. I think you'd find a lot of professions who think they probably should have an opportunity to be represented from time to time on the Board of Health but aren't. I think there are always going to be issues of scope of practice. You've already confronted issues this year with the optometrists that are, to some extent, opposed by ophthalmologists. Those kinds of scope of practice changes are always going to be Board of Health issues. There are some new professions that are going to come forward that may request licensure, and may or may not be approved by the Board of Health, but they still could come to the Legislature. So I think those are going to be the main issues. I think there are always some issues the Board of Health is always wanting to have a role in public education, and that's, I think, an issue always that will come forward. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Questions from the senators? Looking out at them. Oh, I'm sorry. Ms. Coleman, I think you've identified some really good issues, and we'll take a look at...I think it's very interesting that you should suggest that perhaps we expand and bring some of the professions on. One of the issues that this committee is going to struggle with and not necessarily immediately, but in the years to come, is how do we provide good healthcare across the state of Nebraska, and do we need to look at some of the professions differently to allow them to help where we do not have a physician, or we do not have a dentist, or we do not...I mean, how do we expand that healthcare without increasing numbers of professionals? Any thoughts there? [CONFIRMATION]

JANET COLEMAN: Um-hum, I think that's always a big issue, I think, and I think that it's always one of the issues that comes up. Is it better to have someone who's not quite as competent providing outstate and greater Nebraska help than it would be to not have any help at all? I think that's always going to be a question, and the ability to get from western Nebraska to Omaha or Lincoln where...are centers of healthcare because of the size. That's a question, because there isn't always good transportation either. So, yeah, I think that's one of the big issues is how we're going to provide care throughout the state, and I'm actually a believer in some healthcare issues reform, so I'm hoping that's an issue that's confronted. But I don't know the answers. I wish I did, but I don't. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: We may have to become more proactive in bringing several of

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the groups together... [CONFIRMATION]

JANET COLEMAN: Um-hum. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...who normally would contest an increased scope of practice in another profession... [CONFIRMATION]

JANET COLEMAN: Right. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...and say, let's be realistic here. How do we look to the future? So the Board of Health and the Health and Human Services Committee may have to be more proactive instead of reactive. [CONFIRMATION]

JANET COLEMAN: Absolutely. I think we're going to have to...and I know that there have been some changes. I can remember early on, some difficulties and, finally, both professions...different training, granted, in both professions, but they have finally come to some agreements that, yes, X can do this, but maybe they can't do all of it, and Y can do everything. So, yeah, I think that's going to be a very critical issue. I don't live in greater Nebraska, so I have access to any kind of healthcare that I need pretty close at hand. I don't think that's true of people in the far western parts of Nebraska. They don't have easy access to care, and I think those of us who live in Lincoln and Omaha have got to realize that, you know, we're pretty lucky. And maybe we ought to be more, as you said, more proactive in terms of being able to help other people get the kind of assistance they need. Well, I know, there are lots of medical clinics that do go outstate now, and I think that's great. They do go out, but they're not there all the time. It's a never-ending issue, I think. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I do want to assure you we have two really good senators on this committee, trying to work with the ophthalmologists (laugh) and the optometrists... [CONFIRMATION]

JANET COLEMAN: Okay, you're going to say it. I didn't say...when we used... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...so between Senator Gloor and Senator Krist, we're going to... [CONFIRMATION]

JANET COLEMAN: We sometimes have called it the eye wars so (laugh). [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: (Laugh) The eye wars. So we have some good people trying to work on that. Senator Krist. [CONFIRMATION]

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Health and Human Services Committee
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SENATOR KRIST: And you would think those would be two groups that could see eye to eye but they can't. Da da dat da. [CONFIRMATION]

JANET COLEMAN: Yes, you would hope so. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Oh, good puns. [CONFIRMATION]

JANET COLEMAN: They're as blind as some of the rest of us are sometimes (laugh). [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: (Laugh) Ms. Coleman, thank you so much for your service to the state, and your continued... [CONFIRMATION]

JANET COLEMAN: I love the state of Nebraska, and I'm glad to be able to pay back to Nebraska for what it's done for me and my family. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Well, I appreciate that. [CONFIRMATION]

JANET COLEMAN: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And thank you very much for your service on the board. [CONFIRMATION]

JANET COLEMAN: And I look forward to the 407 interim study. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Absolutely. We'll start gearing up for it. [CONFIRMATION]

JANET COLEMAN: Okay. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Unless the senators have anything else, we will consider the hearings closed for the afternoon, and we will be in touch with you about the... [CONFIRMATION]