

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

Health and Human Services Committee
February 20, 2014

[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on Health and Human Services met at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2014, in Room 1510 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on gubernatorial appointments. Senators present: Kathy Campbell, Chairperson; Tanya Cook; Sue Crawford; Mike Gloor; Sara Howard; and Dan Watermeier. Senators absent: Bob Krist, Vice Chairperson.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Good afternoon and welcome to the hearings of the Health and Human Services Committee. I'm Kathy Campbell; I represent District 25, east Lincoln. We won't need to go through all of the usual procedures for our guests today, but the one I will mention is, if you have a cell phone or a tablet with you, you might want to turn it to "silent" or to "off." That tends to really bother people when they're testifying, if a phone goes off. So I'm going to have my colleagues introduce themselves so that you know who we all are. And we'll start to my far right. Senator.

SENATOR WATERMEIER: Dan Watermeier, from District 1.

SENATOR HOWARD: Sara Howard, District 9, midtown Omaha.

SENATOR COOK: I'm Tanya Cook, from District 13, northeast Omaha and Douglas County.

MICHELLE CHAFFEE: I'm Michelle Chaffee; I serve as committee legal counsel.

SENATOR GLOOR: Senator Mike Gloor, District 35, Grand Island.

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Sue Crawford, District 45, eastern Sarpy County: Bellevue, Offutt.

BRENNEN MILLER: I'm Brennen Miller; I serve as committee clerk.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And our pages today are Emily and...Emily...and Emily.

EMILY SCHILTZ: And Stuart.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Stuart. I can't see Stuart over there. I would caution the senators, you want to make sure...Senator Crawford, you want to turn around your mike so that it can pick you up.

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Thank you.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Okay, our first appointee this afternoon is Dr. Noah Piskorski.

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Am I saying that right, Doctor? [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: Piskorski. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Piskorski, okay. And you are seeking an appointment, which would be a new appointment, to the Rural Health Advisory Committee. We are fairly informal here, Doctor. [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And we're not here to grill you on all kinds of intensive questions. What we really do want to know is...our chance to meet you and talk to you and get to know you a little better. So, if you wouldn't mind, tell us a little bit about yourself and why you are interested in serving on the Rural Health Advisory Commission. [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: Okay. Well, first of all, I was born and raised in Ord, Nebraska. I'm from a family of 13, I'm number 12, so a big family. The main reason why I do want to be a part of this program is, growing up with that type of family, my dad was a carpenter, there wasn't a lot of money, and so we were on Medicaid growing up; and also there was countless different grants that I received in college. And because of all of that, I am able to be where I am now. And right now I'm working in Burwell, Nebraska, which is 16 miles north of my hometown. And so I couldn't have achieved everything that I have so far in my life without all of that aid, grants, and help from others. And so my main goal is to give back what I have received. That's the main reason why I want to do this. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Okay, excellent. Did you receive any of the rural health monies? [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: Yeah, I received the rural health scholarship, the loan; what was it, \$17,000 for four years. And so I've been working for two and a half years out here in Burwell and have a couple more to do to fulfill that obligation. But, you know, with that, you know, I'm planning on staying here forever anyway. But that really made it a lot easier for me to move back and just, basically, made everything in my life much, much easier. So, yeah, I did receive one of the scholarships. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And that, it seems to me, would give you a real viewpoint to share with the commission, having been a recipient of those dollars. [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: Yeah, definitely. Definitely. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: So you plan to stay in Burwell at the clinic. Are you the only

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dentist there, Doctor? [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: I am not. Right now I'm an associate dentist, with hopes of buying in in the next couple of years. But, you know, I still live in Ord, Nebraska, and I just do a short commute up to Burwell. But I love the area, and it's home for me, so it's where I plan on being. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Well, Senator Sullivan tells us how great it is, so... [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...we do know. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR COOK: Yes, she does. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And I have been to Ord, Nebraska. My college freshman roommate grew up in Ord and got married there. [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: Outstate. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: So I have been to your hometown. Isn't it...is it the county or is it the town that calls itself the Garden...Garden...something about Garden of Nebraska? [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: There is...I don't know exactly what you're talking about. There's a nearby town in a different county that prides itself on their gardens. But I don't...I guess I haven't heard that, personally. Maybe there's something I don't know. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: That's okay. I'll quiz Senator Sullivan, (laughter) and I'm sure she'll know the answer to it. Other questions or comments that the senators...Senator Gloor. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Campbell. This is Senator Gloor, Dr. Piskorski. I am pretty familiar with Burwell: the Pizza Palace, the Sandstone Grill, and other environs. [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: Oh, yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: I do the Calamus Half Century every year. So...I consider it one of the best bike rides in the state of Nebraska. And Burwell does itself proud when it organizes that. And, of course, I'm a microbrewery fan; I've got to test out the new

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microbrewery. I don't know... [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: (Laugh) Absolutely, you should. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: I don't know whether...I don't know whether barley soda is helpful or harmful when it comes to dental caries. But I'd like to think that it's helpful. Here's the question. And I think you answered it for Senator Campbell, but I didn't quite catch it. How much longer do you have to serve to fulfill your requirements? [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: Technically, 19 months... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: ...was the last that I heard from the Department of Health and Human Services on that. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: And... [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: But the way I see it: two more years. But, yeah... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Is the clinic a rural health clinic? [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: No, it is not. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: So it's really a private clinic, not one... [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: It is... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: ...that gets any federal or state assistance. [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: That is correct, it's a private clinic. And, with the scholarship that I received, the requirements are for me to practice for 40 hours a week in a shortage area--and Garfield County is labeled as a shortage area--and to also accept Medicaid. So those were the requirements for my scholarship. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Okay. Just...I'm trying to place...is the clinic out where the former hospital used to be? [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: No, actually, the clinic is right by the Sandstone, just...there's one building that separates us. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Okay. Well, I'll look for it next time I'm up there. [CONFIRMATION]

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NOAH PISKORSKI: Yeah, absolutely. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: It's a great old...old-time, old-town town square. [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: Yeah, actually, it is. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: It really is. [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: It's great. They've done wonders in Burwell in recent years. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: Um-hum. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Doctor, is the dentist you are practicing with going to retire? [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: You know, that's a great question. He's actually getting more involved in the military, the Army National Guard. And so he thinks that that may take him to Lincoln, but he is unsure at this time. But either way, the hope is to be buying in in the next couple of years, whether he decides to move on or if we decide to expand our office here. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Are you two the only dentists for how...what kind of a radius? [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: Well, we are the only two dentists in the town of Burwell. There are two in Ord, which, like I said, is only 16 miles away. But really we pull from such a broad area, I mean, as far as Atkinson, O'Neill, Broken Bow, and, you know, and everything in between. And, obviously, since I grew up in Ord, I pull from Ord as well and as far south as St. Paul. So...and we still draw from a very, very broad area, mainly from north... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: ...of us. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Well, we're very grateful that you have come back to your roots, so to speak, and staying in rural Nebraska and providing dental care. That is exactly what this...the loan repayment is meant to do. So you're a shining example of it, and then your willingness to serve on the commission. Thank you very much.

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[CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: Oh, thank you for the opportunity. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I'll go through the procedure from here on out because some of the other appointees are in the audience. We visit with all of the appointees and then take a vote of the committee, and generally that's a unanimous vote. And then it goes to the floor of the Legislature, and the full Legislature votes on your appointment. But you do not need to do anything from here on out. The committee handles everything...
[CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...and so you should be well on your way serving on the commission. I would expect that this will come up before the body in the next week or ten days. [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: Okay, thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: So good luck to you, and we'll let you get back to all your patients this afternoon. [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: Oh, thank you very much for your time. Appreciate it.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Bye-bye. [CONFIRMATION]

NOAH PISKORSKI: Yep. Bye. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Okay, our next appointee is Lisa Mlnarik. [CONFIRMATION]

BRENNEN MILLER: Yeah. Okay. No, tell her to call in. [CONFIRMATION]

MICHELLE CHAFFEE: They're going to call her... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: They're going to call her. Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

MICHELLE CHAFFEE: ...to call here. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Oh, okay. We have two other additions to the phone list today, due to the weather primarily. Mary Beth Hanus will be phoning in, and Anthony Moravec. Is that right, Brennen? Do I have that right? [CONFIRMATION]

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BRENNEN MILLER: I believe so. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Okay. So you can kind of make note of that. So we have three (inaudible). [CONFIRMATION]

BRENNEN MILLER: Maybe. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Maybe. Think we should go on? [CONFIRMATION]

MICHELLE CHAFFEE: Might want to call her back and see if there's a problem. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: There's Chuck. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR COOK: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

BRENNEN MILLER: It says it's still busy, for some reason. [CONFIRMATION]

CHUCK HUBKA: There, now it won't be. [CONFIRMATION]

BRENNEN MILLER: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Is she trying to call in, or we're trying to...? Good afternoon, is this Lisa? [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: Yes, it is. Can you hear me? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Yes, we can, quite clearly. And we're sorry for the phone mix-up but glad to have you with us this afternoon. I'm Kathy Campbell, senator from District 25, which is Lincoln. And I'm going to have my colleagues quickly give their names so you know the senators that are here. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: Dan Watermeier, District 1, from Syracuse. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Sara Howard, District 9, midtown Omaha. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR COOK: Tanya Cook, District 13, Omaha. [CONFIRMATION]

MICHELLE CHAFFEE: Michelle Chaffee, legal counsel. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR GLOOR: Mike Gloor, District 35, which is Grand Island. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Sue Crawford, District 45, which is eastern Sarpy County: Bellevue, Offutt. [CONFIRMATION]

BRENNEN MILLER: Brennen Miller, committee clerk. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And we have two pages with us this afternoon: Emily and Stuart. Lisa, let me tell you a little bit about the process here. The whole effort in our visiting with you is to get to know you a little bit better... [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...and why you're interested in serving on the Rural Health Advisory Committee. We're not here to ask real gruelling questions. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: This is an informal exchange of information because we're very appreciative of all appointees who are willing to volunteer their time and serve. So tell us a little bit about yourself. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: Okay, well, I work in a place for CardioVascular Institute. We are a full-service cardiology group associated with Faith Regional Health Services out of Norfolk, Nebraska, but my role with them is pretty much outreach. And so because of my location, where I live, which is Clearwater, which is about 48 miles west of Norfolk, I predominantly cover our busiest outreach clinic. I'm in O'Neill at Avera St. Anthony's every Monday. On Tuesdays I'm either at Atkinson West Holt Hospital in Atkinson, Nebraska, or at Creighton Avera Hospital up in Creighton, Nebraska. And then on Thursdays I'm here at Antelope Memorial Hospital in Neligh, Nebraska. We provide inpatient consultation as well as follow-up visits in our clinic. And then sometimes, when it's necessary, we go into the ERs, too, at those hospitals. So I am in those rural hospitals providing care in our critical access site frequently. And then I live west of Clearwater; I have five kids and am busy with that. And my husband and I also have a cattle operation together; we (inaudible) registered Angus cattle. And then with the extended operation with the family, his family, we have commercial cattle, and we operate Clearwater Feed and Grain. And so between what he does and what I do, we're both all over north-central and northeast Nebraska. That's what keeps us busy. So I spend a lot of time in our critical access hospitals, from a work standpoint, but then also I get to know the people. A lot of times the same patients that I'm taking care of in clinic are the ones that I run into at the ball games and at church and the gas station, you know, when they're at the grocery store. So I didn't grow up in rural Nebraska, but I recognize that there's a lot of hurdles to jump through to get good care in rural

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Nebraska. So that's why I wanted to be part of the...or see if I could help make a difference in the access that we all are trying to achieve here in rural Nebraska.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Absolutely. And you are a nurse practitioner, correct, Lisa?
[CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: You've had...and, for my colleagues, you might want to take a look, but Lisa has provided rather an extensive resume to us. And one of the questions, Lisa, I was just interested in, that you served as the medical examiner for the Child Advocacy Center in Norfolk. Can you tell us a little bit about that experience?
[CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: Sure. That was just...I was just one...one team member. And that's how we work in cardiology too. I should explain, when I go out to these outreach hospitals, I'm part of a bigger team. And so I have at least one of my nurses from our office in Norfolk come out, an echovascular tech, and then one of my MDs is with us as well. But from a SANE/SART program...that's "sexual assault nurse examiner." The Child Advocacy Center was started at Norfolk roughly when I was back there working for them, and there was a need, basically--and you guys have that in Lincoln and Omaha too and in Kearney--but a need for one central location for children, most often children, that are sexually assaulted to go and not be, basically, interrogated by multiple aspects of multiple people. And so at the Child Advocacy Center I was just part of the team that did forensic exams and basically collected forensic evidence. And then it goes through a chain of command and it's used in a court of law. I can say that my time there wasn't all that long, but I learned a lot. And I was the...the way I got tied into that was when, predominantly, females would come into the ER--when I was working at the ER at Faith--and they had a reported sexual assault. Me being a lot of times the only female provider on, I was by default the one that collected the sexual assault exam kit. So it just kind of became a natural transition to go on and learn the specialized exam techniques and care and working with law enforcement, etcetera. They still have a Child Advocacy Center at Norfolk; I'm just not a part of it anymore. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: But you have just had an extensive experience in the ER and from a clinical perspective and going back to when you practiced as a nurse. I mean, you have a very long resume, which should be very helpful to the Rural Health Commission. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: Oh, yeah. And I, I mean, I live it. Clearwater is, like, a town of...the sign says about 380 for a total population; I know we've got more cattle than we've got people. So it's rural Nebraska at its best. It's a little town and a lot of proud people. But

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I...when going to undergrad and graduate at the U of N Med Center system, I recognized very early on that there's somewhat of a disconnect; and the...that, then, there's almost like Omaha and Lincoln, and there's what they call "outstate" and that the world kind of falls off outside of Lincoln and Omaha. And it's so...trying to connect all of these rural Nebraska people with healthcare and, I don't know, trying to make it easier and bring the expertise out to them I think is pretty important. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Absolutely. Other questions? Senator Gloor.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Campbell. This is Senator Gloor. I have just a question for you on a topic that comes up down here quite a bit, and that has to do with telemedicine. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: Um-hum. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Do you have a telemedicine component that connects you with the institute back in Norfolk? [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: We...we don't do that. We...we use our phones. And we just...like if we see someone in outreach and they need to get shipped down either to acutely ill or they need a heart cath right now, etcetera, we need to transfer them out and get them into Norfolk, we'll just take care of that. Now, in terms of a telehealth standpoint, like Avera St. Anthony's over at O'Neill, Nebraska, they're tied in with telehealth, in their ER, to, I think, Yankton...I think Yankton. But, literally, there's people sitting on the other end in ICU. And I think their ER is tied in to that with telemetry monitoring and docs on that site. And they can see, through a camera, what's going on in the ER bay there at O'Neill. So they use that...use that a lot. And then, for telehealth, we use that for continuing education if something is at Norfolk; and they tie in to the statewide telehealth system to send it out to other places. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Do you do any diagnostics that you can send digitally back to Norfolk, or is...I'd put that in a different... [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: We...our EKGs are on a cardioserver system, and those are sent back. In some of my outreaches, the same radiologists that are reading our films in Norfolk are reading them in some of our outreaches. Like, I'm here in Antelope Memorial today at Neligh, Nebraska, and those are sent down over the phone line. So...but from a cardiac standpoint, we have tried to do some live stuff with our echoes, but it--I believe it was live--it didn't work. The computer system that we had tried to implement, a new one, it wasn't giving us good enough reads, and so we went back to the old way. So, basically, we bring our echoes out portable. They're on a hard drive, and (inaudible) can look at them right away and we can have an opinion. But the full read happens back in

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Norfolk when they get loaded into the full system. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Well, I'm sure this will be a topic...I know it's a topic that will be talked about in the Rural Health Advisory Commission. And it's...I think, too often we see it as an answer for...an answer in place of having actual practitioners on the ground, and I think we're a long way away from really being at a point where that's the case. But it could be helpful. And you've given some good examples of it works in some cases, doesn't work in other cases. So thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Any other questions or comments? Senator Crawford.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Thank you. This is Senator Crawford. And you had mentioned, from your work and also just seeing people at the ball games and with your cattle business, just having a sense of what some of the barriers are and that you were excited about coming on the board to help, you know, address some of those. I mean, is there any one in particular that is...stands out to you that you're excited about working on? You have any particular idea that you're wanting to bring to the board?
[CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: Well, actually, two things really stand out. And so the first one is mental health practitioners. I did seven years in the ER at Faith Regional. And so we are a referral center, at that time and still are, for EPCs; and for those of you not in healthcare, that means "emergency protective custody" patients. And those are people who have been deemed by law enforcement...and that's the only way you achieve that status, in Nebraska, is by law enforcement, that you are deemed to be at risk of harm to yourself or to others. And then you're placed and are subject to a hold, so that, in theory, you can get help. And it's in a...not like the Regional Center but, like, an acute-care mental health state facility. So in Norfolk we have that capability, but the beds are so limited. And, really, what drives the problem with mental health, from my experience, is the lack of practitioners in the area in which these people live. I know, in my own experience, I had a family member that suffered greatly with postpartum depression, and I was watching it from the sidelines. And she was told by her primary care people in rural Nebraska that, you know, we can't get you into psych care for weeks. Well, thank God, I was there, because I recognized, in weeks she would be dead. So I picked up the phone and I called one of my psych docs that I'd sent patients to before and, basically, begged. And I said, please help my sister, and I'll make her get to that appointment at whatever time or day or city or location you want. And he was kind enough to get her in and get that turnaround for her within about 48 hours. But that's only because I was smart enough to recognize it and had the connections to do it.
[CONFIRMATION]

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LISA MLNARIK: Other people suffer in rural Nebraska if they don't have access to good mental healthcare, whether it be behavior problems in kids or...I've seen, you know, we've seen repeat patients in the ER, where they've got underlying bipolar or schizophrenia and they're just not getting adequate care. And if we could help them on the front lines, it would reduce the emergent crisis down the road and then help all those costs to the counties, because in the past, and maybe this has changed, but the reason sometimes some county officials have been reluctant to label somebody as an EPC is because that they then...if that patient is labeled as EPC, they have to be institutionalized for 72 hours. And I believe that that county is then liable for those care costs. I might be wrong on that, but that was my experience from the past.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Thank you. I am...I appreciate you sharing that personal story. And I just want you to know there are many of us here in the body who are very concerned about those issues as well. And so we really look forward to working with you on that. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: Thanks. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: One of our colleagues prioritized a bill that we've heard in this committee that would put forth some funds for loans and stipends for mental health practitioners, again trying to increase the number of those. So I expect that we'll be talking about this on the floor of the Legislature yet this session. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Any other comments, Senators? Lisa, thank you so much for visiting with us this afternoon. I have enjoyed your talking about the communities you serve; I grew up in Norfolk. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: Oh. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And so all the communities you talk about I have been in, and I certainly know that area. And it is very helpful, I think, to the Rural Health Advisory to have a practitioner who does serve these very small rural communities. So thank you for your willingness to serve. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: Yeah, you're welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: You have a good afternoon. The process will be that the committee will vote on your appointment, and I don't see any problems there. And then it will go to the full Legislature. You need do nothing else. And I'm sure that at some

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point you'll start getting agendas to come to the Rural Health Advisory Commission.
[CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: Yep. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Lisa; have a good afternoon. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MLNARIK: Okay, thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Uh-huh, bye-bye. Our next appointment... [CONFIRMATION]

BRENNEN MILLER: Mary Beth. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...is Mary Beth Hanus. And Mary Beth is in Omaha.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: I think I've met her before. She may have testified here when I served on a.....when I served on a diocesan committee on sexual (inaudible).....Grand Island (inaudible). She certainly (inaudible) background. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Good afternoon. Mary Beth? [CONFIRMATION]

MARY BETH HANUS: Good afternoon. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I am Kathy Campbell, and I serve as senator from District 25.
[CONFIRMATION]

MARY BETH HANUS: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And we are delighted to have you this afternoon for your appointment hearing. We don't try to ask all kinds of grueling questions.
[CONFIRMATION]

MARY BETH HANUS: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: We're really informal. And we're trying to get at a couple of things. One is to get to know you and to know of your interest in serving on the Child Abuse Prevention Board. [CONFIRMATION]

MARY BETH HANUS: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I'm going to have my colleagues introduce themselves so you know who you're talking to. And then we'll just kind of visit with you. So we'll start...

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[CONFIRMATION]

MARY BETH HANUS: That sounds great. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...with the senator on my far right. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: Dan Watermeier, District 1, in Syracuse. [CONFIRMATION]

MARY BETH HANUS: Hello. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Sara Howard, District 9, midtown Omaha. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR COOK: I'm Tanya Cook, District 13, in Omaha. [CONFIRMATION]

MICHELLE CHAFFEE: I'm Michelle Chaffee; I serve as legal counsel.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: I'm Mike Gloor; I'm the senator from Grand Island.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Sue Crawford, District 45, which is eastern Sarpy County:
Bellevue and Offutt. [CONFIRMATION]

BRENNEN MILLER: Brennen Miller, committee clerk. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And our two pages, Emily and Stuart. Mary Beth, why don't you go ahead and tell us a little bit about yourself and how you got interested in serving on the Child Abuse Prevention Board. [CONFIRMATION]

MARY BETH HANUS: Oh, my. Well, I'm a licensed mental health practitioner, social work training. And I've worked in the arena of child abuse, neglect, and prevention for probably 30 years. I worked at Children's Hospital for over 15 and was trained as a forensic interviewer. And I think when you're in that arena for so long you really can see that there's things that you can do to...to prevent, even though it sometimes is not as measurable as we like. And so I've always had very much of an interest in prevention. Currently I am, the last ten years, I am the victim outreach and prevention manager for the Archdiocese of Omaha. And, again, that just fuels my passion to do everything I can to prevent, because part of my job is I do...I reach out to victims who have had any kind of abuse with clergy or staff members of the church, and typically that's historical. But we also did a faith-based curriculum...preventive curriculum that's mandated in all of our schools, in religious ed. And then that's been really exciting for me because that's something that we can do on the prevention end. So...and we now have it in 24 other dioceses and over 500 Protestant churches. So I just...I have a passion for it. I was

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delighted I was actually asked to apply. And I immediately said yes because I think it's so very important to look at the bigger picture and how can we make an impact early on as opposed to waiting till something terrible happens. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Exactly. You know, Mary Beth, I was very impressed with your resume. And one of the things that the colleagues should look at in their packet is that you're in 500 Protestant churches in the U.S. and Canada. So your work... [CONFIRMATION]

MARY BETH HANUS: Correct, yes, and Canada. That's correct. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...reaches across a very large area in reaching a lot of people. And it would seem that that experience would be so helpful to the Child Abuse Prevention Board as you've started to work. What do you think is the biggest key to preventing child abuse and neglect? [CONFIRMATION]

MARY BETH HANUS: Oh, my goodness. I guess for me is I just think having healthy parents and healthy kids. And I...health in terms of emotional, physical, and spiritual. And then I think when you're able to support parents in their role as primary caregivers and then help them have their kids be healthy, I think that is the best prevention that we can do...and education, which is across the spectrum. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Okay. Other questions? Senator Gloor. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Campbell. This is Senator Gloor, Mary Beth. [CONFIRMATION]

MARY BETH HANUS: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: I think, if we've not met, I've at least seen your name on some things, I'm pretty sure. I, for about the past ten years, starting with Bishop McNamara and carrying over to Bishop Dendinger, served on the... [CONFIRMATION]

MARY BETH HANUS: Oh, gotcha. Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Yeah, I serve on the victim awareness and prevention task force out...for the Diocese of Grand Island. [CONFIRMATION]

MARY BETH HANUS: Wonderful. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: And so I'm guessing that a lot of your responsibilities for the archdiocese fit into what occurs, or what finds its way to us, out in Grand Island. But it's excellent background, excellent training, and excellent approach towards, as you've

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said, trying to be proactive rather than reactive. So I, too, was... [CONFIRMATION]

MARY BETH HANUS: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: ...really pleased to see your resume, biography, and your experience. I think it'll be a big help to them. [CONFIRMATION]

MARY BETH HANUS: Well, it's an honor to be part of it; so thank you.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Senator Howard. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Senator Campbell. Mary Beth, this is Senator Howard, from Omaha. I was... [CONFIRMATION]

MARY BETH HANUS: Hi. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: ...hoping you would tell us a little bit about your work with the Interchurch Ministries and the anti-bullying work that you're doing. [CONFIRMATION]

MARY BETH HANUS: Oh, sure. Actually, that project is completed. But I was able to...I worked on a interfaith committee to put up...to try to figure out what kind of resources we could do for faith communities, to assist with the education of the impact of bullying. And it was probably a two- to three-year commitment. It was really exciting. We were able to develop a...it's a DVD training packet. Basically, it's a PowerPoint voice-over with a participant packet, parent packet, that faith communities can take into their churches and then, basically, kind of have their own education of how bullying affects their congregation or their community. And it's not copyrighted, so we can send that to anybody that we want; people can adapt it. And it's been pretty successful. We did a ton of training. We did several trainings in key places through Nebraska to get faith communities trained on how to present this. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you. I appreciate that. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Any other questions or comments from the senators? Mary Beth, we'll explain a little bit about the process. The committee votes on your appointment, and I certainly don't see any problem with us okaying it. It then goes to the full Legislature. You need do nothing else. I would expect that you will be voted upon favorably by the Legislature, and then you will start your work on the Child Abuse Prevention Board. And we just want to thank you for coming forward and submitting that application and serving on the board and all of your work for children.
[CONFIRMATION]

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MARY BETH HANUS: Oh, thank you so much. And, actually, really, thank you for letting me call in. I was a little worried about driving. So I appreciate that. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I am one of those people that worries every day about driving. (Laughter) So I can appreciate that. You have a great afternoon, and thank you for chatting with us. [CONFIRMATION]

MARY BETH HANUS: Oh, thank you so much. Take care. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: You too. [CONFIRMATION]

MARY BETH HANUS: Bye. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Bye-bye. Our next person is Timothy Hoffman, Mr. Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman's appointment would be to the Board of Emergency Medical Services. And it is a reappointment. [CONFIRMATION]

BRENNEN MILLER: You have one more call-in. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Oh, I thought we were doing them... [CONFIRMATION]

BRENNEN MILLER: The last person on the list, Senator. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...in order. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: If you want to do that, that's fine; that would be fine. [CONFIRMATION]

BRENNEN MILLER: Look at the numbers. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: You can just have a chair, then you... [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Sorry. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: No, you can sit down right there, if you want to. Sorry about that, Brennen, I thought we were going to go in order. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Your mike is live; so if you snore, we'll hear it. (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: I'll try not to. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: You have to be careful there. Okay, is she on the line?

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[CONFIRMATION]

BRENNEN MILLER: We're calling right now. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Okay...or he. [CONFIRMATION]

BRENNEN MILLER: It will be the last person on your list, number 4. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

BRENNEN MILLER: On this list: Anthony... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: "mo-ROH-vick." "mo-RAY-vick." Moravec. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Anthony Moravec. Good afternoon. Anthony?
[CONFIRMATION]

ANTHONY MORAVEC: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Do you go by "Anthony" or "Tony" or...? [CONFIRMATION]

ANTHONY MORAVEC: I go by "Tony." [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Okay. Tony, this is Kathy Campbell, and I serve as the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee as senator from District 25, Lincoln. And so welcome on the phone call. What we're trying to do today is, really, two things. It's informal. We want to learn something about you and your interest in serving on the State Board of Health. But before we do that, I'm going to have my colleagues introduce themselves so you know who's here today. [CONFIRMATION]

ANTHONY MORAVEC: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: Anthony, this is Dan Watermeier, District 1, in Syracuse.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Sara Howard, District 9, midtown Omaha. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR COOK: Tanya Cook, District 13, Omaha. [CONFIRMATION]

MICHELLE CHAFFEE: I'm Michelle Chaffee; I serve as legal counsel.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: I'm Senator Mike Gloor; I'm the senator from Grand Island.

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[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Senator Sue Crawford, from District 45; it's eastern Sarpy County. [CONFIRMATION]

BRENNEN MILLER: I'm Brennen Miller, committee clerk. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And our two pages today are Emily and Stuart. Tony, thanks so much for taking time to visit with us today. You have an appointment to the State Board of Health and, I'm assuming, as the representative from the veterinarians. Is that... [CONFIRMATION]

ANTHONY MORAVEC: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...correct? [CONFIRMATION]

ANTHONY MORAVEC: Um-hum, that's correct. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Okay. You have had a lot of experience; you were kind enough to provide a great amount of information to us, in taking a look at that. But I have to tell you...tell me a little bit about yourself and what information you'd like us to know. [CONFIRMATION]

ANTHONY MORAVEC: Certainly. It's an honor and a privilege to get the opportunity to serve the great people of the state of Nebraska in this capacity. I grew up here. I grew up on a farm northwest of Lincoln where we raised beef cattle and corn and soybeans and alfalfa. And the family farm is still very much there and intact and has grown over the years and has undergone some changes. But, regardless, that's where I got my initial interest in pursuing a career track with veterinary medicine. I went to the University of Nebraska for my preliminary studies and attended Kansas State University for vet school. And my wife is originally from Illinois, so the first job I had was in the great state of Illinois. And we were out there for a time at a mixed-animal practice, typical James Herriot type of setup: All Creatures Great and Small. And after getting "broke in," so to speak, out there, I moved back to the state of Nebraska, where I practiced in Lincoln for a time in a small-animal-only practice. And one of my vet school mentors contacted me not long after I had returned to the state of Nebraska and asked that I take part in a possible job search looking for (inaudible) as a representative for their pet nutrition company. And I told her, yeah, I didn't want to waste my education, which was met with a lot of laughter. And I very much respect this gal, to the degree that I got curious and realized that I really hadn't scratched the surface of my education, and yet...and that, you know, that set me on a wild track ranging from Tennessee to Oregon and eventually back to Nebraska. And I've seen veterinary clinics inside and out, a couple thousand or more. And so I've got a pretty good idea of what good medicine is,

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what bad medicine is, and all parts in between. And so when we moved back to Nebraska here a little over a year ago...you know, we want to make Nebraska our home for our children; we've got currently five children, ranging in ages from 12 years to 2 months. And we wanted to do something to get (inaudible) and give back to the great state that helped me get to where I've gotten in my career, and I thought this was an excellent opportunity and forum to apply that experience and apply that knowledge. And it's a humbling honor. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Well, Tony, I appreciate the background there. Can you tell us a little bit about...I've not heard about...is it mur-TYE-ul, M-u-r-t-i-a-l, the company you for? [CONFIRMATION]

ANTHONY MORAVEC: Oh, Merial; it's M-e-r... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Merial. [CONFIRMATION]

ANTHONY MORAVEC: ...i-a-l. And Merial is best known for the number one and number two brands in all of animal health. Many of you who have cats and dogs may know of the brands Frontline and Heartgard. And those are their...our flagship products on the small animal side of the business. People that have cattle may know of the brand called "Ivomec," and that's another one of the brands that Merial has. And we support those brands through education of veterinarians about the pathologies that our brands, either directly or indirectly, impact. And it's an ongoing challenge, of sorts, to be able to do different support roles and troubleshooting as well as research. And then as of late, and even this week I was in Las Vegas presenting new information on some of our newer products to veterinarians at a large conference out there. So it takes me in a lot of different directions. But I can do things like this at home, and preferably there in person; but with the roads as they were today, I apologize for not making that trek into Lincoln. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I can understand that. So you really have covered both small animals and large animals, then. [CONFIRMATION]

ANTHONY MORAVEC: Oh, yeah, absolutely. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Yes, I'm familiar, because Frontline deals with tick and flea. [CONFIRMATION]

ANTHONY MORAVEC: That's right. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: So I see some heads nodding; my colleagues, those of us who have dogs, (laughter) certainly recognize that. Other comments or questions? Senator Crawford. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR CRAWFORD: Thank you, Senator Campbell. And thank you, Tony, for being willing to serve. And one of the issues that the board deals with that we also deal with as a committee here is the licensing and credentialing of people in different professions, including veterinarians. And so I was just curious, since you've practiced in different states, what your perception is of the state of Nebraska in terms of the ability to come into Nebraska from another state and get the credentialing that you need to practice, or any other thoughts you have about credentialing in the state for veterinarians.
[CONFIRMATION]

ANTHONY MORAVEC: Well, that's a...an excellent question. And there are some states that are much easier to attract veterinarians and retain veterinarian talent than others. Nebraska kind of fits in the middle, to be able to practice in the state of Nebraska. They have a very fair and balanced type of examination and review process that makes sure that you have a clean track record and there's no issues to be concerned with there. There are other states that are a little bit more cumbersome; and as a result, I think they see issues with adequate numbers of veterinarians to help out, particularly in rural areas, where the need is greatest. And I think...I think Nebraska is ahead of the ball game in that regard, in allowing a thorough but not shoddy process to make sure that we're screening applicants and getting high-quality individuals, which most veterinary professionals are. But at the same time, we don't want to have an inhibitory process that's going to detract from their ability to apply for a license and get a license in due time and be able to practice in this state. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Thank you. So you found the process fair and appropriate when you came back across state lines. [CONFIRMATION]

ANTHONY MORAVEC: Um-hum. Yes, absolutely. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Any other questions or comments from the senators? Tony, thank you so much for spending time with us. The process will be that the committee will vote on your appointment, and I certainly don't see any problems with that vote. It'll go to the full Legislature, and again don't see any problem with that. You do not need to do anything else. And fairly soon you'll be getting all the information, I'm sure, from the State Board of Health. And we much appreciate your willingness to serve. We hear quite a bit from the State Board of Health and are dependent upon our professional folks to serve in that capacity. So best of luck to you, and welcome back to Nebraska; we're always glad to see Nebraskans come back with their families and settle here.
[CONFIRMATION]

ANTHONY MORAVEC: It's an honor and a privilege; thank you very much.

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[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Have a good afternoon. [CONFIRMATION]

ANTHONY MORAVEC: You too. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Bye-bye. [CONFIRMATION]

ANTHONY MORAVEC: Bye-bye. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Now we are...is it "Timothy" or "Tim"? [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: "Tim" is fine. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Tim? Tim, you now have heard all the introductions and all the routines and everything else. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Not one more time? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Not one more time? (Laughter) Not one more time? So tell us about yourself. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Sure. Thank you for the opportunity to come and discuss EMS and myself with you today. As Senator Campbell said, this is a reappointment. I was initially appointed to the Board of EMS in 2008. I have approximately about 20 years' experience in EMS. I started off as a volunteer in a local quick-response team in Doniphan, Nebraska, which is in rural Hall County. I did that because...wanting to farm, essentially, with my parents and being able to volunteer with our local service. It was pretty much on accident that I decided I had a love for EMS and went on to become an EMT and then, ultimately, a paramedic. I worked for Rural/Metro in Hastings. I did that for about 12 years, moving up from a paramedic to a field supervisor to the station manager, kind of overseeing all the day-to-day operations. And currently I work for Good "Sam" in Kearney, for our 9-1-1 service in the city of Kearney and Buffalo County. I also am the training agency program director; we have an EMS training agency. And I also serve as the physician medical director surrogate for a lot of the rural departments that surround the city of Kearney and that operate in Buffalo County. What that is, is I help them with training, continuing education. If they have any quality issues or anything, I can act on behalf of the physician medical director to help them. And last year I was elected, or appointed, as the chairman of the Board of EMS, and currently that's the position that I serve. And I really enjoy serving on the Board of EMS and understand, you know, that there's a lot of challenges and a lot of opportunities for EMS coming up. I also serve as the vice president for the Rural Nebraska Regional Ambulance Network. It is a rural ambulance network that was brought together about

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four years ago through some federal grant dollars that brought EMS agencies, some hospitals together to try to assist with training opportunities and some other opportunities for EMS providers, especially in the western part of the state. Education is really hard to find, sometimes, in the rural parts of Nebraska, so that's one of our main goals. Currently, we're trying to work on developing some type of a position paper that we can move forward with to what community paramedicine might look like in the state of Nebraska. "Community paramedic" is something that's been going on in quite a few states. Minnesota has had a fairly successful program with some of their community paramedics. Primarily the biggest area right now is in Reno, Nevada. They got some federal grant dollars to go ahead where they're actually trying to reduce hospital readmissions and also repeat utilization of ambulance services. They're using RN navigators as part of a 9-1-1 system, to where somebody would call 9-1-1 and there would be a select set of questions that the dispatcher would ask. If the dispatcher would find out that it may not necessarily be an emergency, instead of dispatching an ambulance, they may roll it over to an RN navigator. That RN would then interrogate them and figure out maybe they don't need an ambulance. Ultimately they still could get an ambulance if, through all of the interrogation, they found out that they do have something that requires an immediate response. But otherwise they may direct them to clinics, driving themselves to the hospital, calling a physician's office, helping with medications, etcetera. They're seeing some pretty good success stories with that. Primarily why you don't see a lot of community paramedic programs around is EMS is a transport benefit under Medicare. So for us to be able to be reimbursed we have to transport those patients to an appropriate healthcare facility. The "appropriate healthcare facilities" are very short lists: hospitals, clinics, and some other...you know, sometimes they can go home, etcetera, but they've got to meet stringent requirements. So that's one of the biggest things that we're working on at a national level, is looking at how can we change some of the funding structures for EMS services and, hopefully, one day be able to work outside and be...out-of-hospital providers. We're not trying to do anything that is in the home-health realm. Some people misunderstand the role of a community paramedic or a community health worker. Primarily the work done by a community paramedic is more trying to ensure that the place is safe for the individual; that they're taking their meds; doing weight checks, like on CHS-, COPD-type patients; and assisting some of the gaps, because not everybody qualifies for home health. So they may not want it; they may not want somebody to come into their house. And that's some of the things that we see, is they don't want somebody to come into their house, because they're afraid that they're going to send them to a nursing home. So they refuse a lot of that type of care. So, hopefully, seeing a paramedic and...some people are more used to seeing paramedics in that kind of a setting, the nursing. So there's another opportunity. So that...that's a lot of...but... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: It...no, it's good information. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: It's good. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR CAMPBELL: And I take it that that's really what the board is looking at, is where do we need to go. Senator Gloor and I have a legislative resolution which is going to have a hearing tomorrow, but we've started looking at healthcare in Nebraska... [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...for what it should be in the next 15 years. And so if we don't have you on that list, we ought to put you on the list... [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: I would love to be on that list. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...because we...that's an aspect that we need to be aware of and plan for. So I see Senator Gloor anxious to ask you a question. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Sure. And thanks for still being interested in continuing to serve, Tim. And for the committee members' edification, he's also a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, which is, from a standpoint of credentials that hospital execs get, that requires testing and selection, you don't just get it. And then you're also maintaining your paramedic credential at the same time. So, you know, you're...spent a little money, or somebody spends a little money on you to have you at the top of your game on both of those areas. So that's, I think, a real help to this. But do you get out in the ambulance still fairly regularly? I'm guessing your administrative responsibilities are such that it gets hard to hop in the seat of the ambulance and do transfers... [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: ...or calls. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: It does from time to time. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: I mean, you've got to maintain a certain number of hours, don't you? [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Yes. Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: I still try to. And primarily...the job that I have primarily is just assisting. I'll go out there as a third person, not necessarily working a shift. But I'll try to get out there to monitor and keep my skills honed; because if I don't use them, I'll lose

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them. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: So in this discussion, I mean, I want to pick up where Senator Campbell is, with this LR22 discussion we've been having. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Yes, sir. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: We're trying to visualize where we think the healthcare system ought to be in this state 15-20 years from now. And it's reasonable to think that there won't be the connection to health services that critical access hospitals have; yet, in many cases, stabilizing and transferring is what a lot of those institutions do very well. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Um-hum. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Well, what are we going to fill the gap with? And especially if a lot of the EMS that we get in those smaller communities is volunteers, as opposed to people who are paid, is there discussion about this in that 40-member--I forget what the name of it was--that 40-member group that you talked about that got organized about four or five years... [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Oh, the...the Rural Nebraska Regional... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Yeah. Yeah, is there discussion about what's the future going to look like for us? [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Yes, and...yes, Senator Gloor, thank you for that question. Yes, we do have some discussion...that we're talking about that. We're also discussing...you know, Nebraska is extremely unique how the statute of EMS is. And we've changed it a little bit through the years. I think that there's more opportunity for changing some of those statutes. Currently, only a paramedic or an advanced EMT can work inside of a hospital. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Changing that and allowing EMTs to also function would be able to bring more healthcare workers also into the hospital and also in these critical access hospitals, allow more work force, to give a full-time job to that EMT that also wants to volunteer on that ambulance service; so when they do have to stabilize, to transport a

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patient out, there's going to be staff there. You know, currently, we probably...over the past several years we're starting to lose ambulance services. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: There's one service specifically that is part of my jurisdiction that...they have one EMT right now. And we've, in the...probably about three or four months ago, right before Christmas, we had to go up and discuss and try to figure out what we were going to do with that service to allow for, after December 31, what we were going to do with a service that only had one EMT. It takes two to operate an ambulance. So we came up with... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Plus the capital expense associated with the equipment. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Exactly. And that...you know, if you look at the population of Nebraska and some of the surrounding areas...or states that we have, per capita we have a lot more ambulance services than a lot of our states that surround us. Now, we have approximately the same amount of ambulance services in the state of Nebraska as Iowa does, with a less population. So there's definite opportunity. It's very prideful for a community...it's the same: we don't want to lose our school, we don't want to lose our ambulance service. And I totally get that. But I think there's definite opportunities. And, Senator Gloor, being from Hall County, you know how Hall County's EMS system works, and it works out very well. But Grand Island is a centralized city, and they have a paid fire service. And the...all the cities that are around Grand Island are all volunteer quick-response teams; they don't transport. So Grand Island will go out. But the other services will still be able to provide that care; they just don't transport the patient. It's models like that that we could look at towards the future of EMS, where we still have providers in these communities, but we may just not have a...I just got done buying an ambulance, and it was around \$170,000. By the time you put all the equipment in the back, we're almost at \$200,000. And if you look at a BLS service that transports 50 patients a year, if they bill for it, in that life span of that ambulance, they'll never pay it off, so...for the capital expense of that. So those are some definite opportunities for that: trying to find better funding, allowing EMS providers to work inside hospitals, changing how we are funded, and the going away from the transport benefit to trying to go for some other opportunities and some definite opportunities. And then another thing, too, is, and I know, Senator Gloor, you've looked at this in the past, but LR243, with the statutory authority, somebody responsible for EMS. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Because currently, Senators, there's not somebody responsible for EMS in the state of Nebraska. So when you call 9-1-1, there doesn't necessarily

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have to be somebody answer that call. We have mutual aid agreements, and fire services do a very good job with their mutual aid agreements. But there is no statutory authority for EMS anywhere. So if somebody wanted to pull out, there's nothing that says somebody has to provide ambulance service for that community.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: A little-known but important... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Little known... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: ...important fact. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Yes. I...I...and I...yeah, it's unfortunate that more of the public in Nebraska doesn't know that. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: It's just an expectation that they have, not knowing that it doesn't have to be. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR COOK: Have to be. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Exactly. Exactly. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Got it. Other questions or comments from the senators? Tim, you've just provided a lot of...no, seriously, a lot of information to us which is extremely helpful. And I'm sure I speak for all the senators who are glad that you are the chair of the board, because you come from an extensive background, as you said, started as a volunteer and worked your way through. So thank you for your service so much. And don't hesitate to call us, any one of us, or send an e-mail, if there is an idea that you think we need to know about as the Health and Human Services Committee, and how, you know... [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Um-hum. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...we can do that. We may have to start looking at an interim study on the very issue you've talked about, as to should that authority somewhere be placed in statute. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much, Senators.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: So any ideas you have on that please let us know.
[CONFIRMATION]

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TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Okay. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thanks for coming today. [CONFIRMATION]

TIMOTHY HOFFMAN: Thank you, Senators; you have a good day. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR COOK: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Our next appointee is Troy Hiemer? [CONFIRMATION]

TROY HIEMER: Correct. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Took a...I took a chance, Troy. Troy is here as also a reappointment to the Board of Emergency Medical Services, comes to us from Columbus. And so tell us a little bit about yourself. [CONFIRMATION]

TROY HIEMER: Well, as you said, I'm from Columbus. And, once again, thank you for allowing me to be here. Born and raised in Columbus; the only time I really was away was when I served in the military. Came back and got the opportunity to marry my wonderful wife and have three kids. Then joined the volunteer fire department, where I still currently belong to. And, well, gracious enough to be given a job by Midwest Medical as an EMT and worked my way up from the ground. And now I'm a regional manager for them and also in administration and have been there approximately 14 years now. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Wow. [CONFIRMATION]

TROY HIEMER: You know, as Mr. Hoffman said, one of the things that is coming about in Nebraska is paramedicine. And I've had the opportunity working with Midwest Medical to, I guess, what...the former Lieutenant Governor has brought an opportunity to us with the company he works with, and we can't get into a whole lot of details because it's a pilot program. But we're currently working with them to help better...a device that may help us in the future in paramedicine. And we're currently, I guess, doing that at this time. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Is this one of these sort of like advertisements saying, "Stay tuned, and I'll be back to you when I can tell you?" (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

TROY HIEMER: We can't say a whole lot about it right now. It's just a...it's a device that an individual wears that would help them in the future... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: That would be great. [CONFIRMATION]

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TROY HIEMER: ...for monitoring. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: That would be great. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: It's important. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thanks for your service to our country. You served in the Gulf War...? [CONFIRMATION]

TROY HIEMER: Yes, ma'am. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...in what, a part of the Marines? [CONFIRMATION]

TROY HIEMER: Yes, ma'am. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: So how long did you serve? [CONFIRMATION]

TROY HIEMER: A total of eight years; it was four years active, four years inactive. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: So we much appreciate that. What has been the most surprising thing to you in serving on the board? [CONFIRMATION]

TROY HIEMER: Probably the things I have learned. There was...and that was one of the reasons--I had to ask permission to become a board member--was to educate myself, because it seemed like a lot of people had no idea what rules and regs were, or what to follow. So I took it upon myself to help educate them as well. So I constantly bring at our volunteer meetings or whatnot, giving updates or information. And I was...I guess, one of the aspirations I had to become a member...excuse, I'm fighting a cold. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Oh, would you like a glass of water? [CONFIRMATION]

TROY HIEMER: I'm fine, thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Are you sure? Okay, because the pages sure can get you one if you'd like. [CONFIRMATION]

TROY HIEMER: Yeah, I'm okay. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Senator Crawford. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Thank you, Senator Campbell. One of the issues of interest to

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me has been looking at the ability of people who have military experience to translate their experience into civilian practices. Did you do EMT kind of work when you were in the Marines? Or was this just a different...something you'd learned after you got out?
[CONFIRMATION]

TROY HIEMER: Completely opposite field. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Okay. Okay. Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Completely opposite. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Thanks. (Laugh) [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Did you grow up in Nebraska? I can't remember.
[CONFIRMATION]

TROY HIEMER: Born and raised in Columbus, yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Aha, with the Columbus Discoverers? [CONFIRMATION]

TROY HIEMER: Scotus. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Ah. [CONFIRMATION]

TROY HIEMER: The Angels. (Laugh) [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I'm sure you heard that my hometown was Norfolk, archrival of Columbus, that's for sure. Other questions or comments for Troy? Troy, we just appreciate you coming down, and I know you've had to wait a long time for a short time with us. But we appreciate your service on the board tremendously and would hope, again, because you're serving on the board and as a reappointment, if there are issues that come before you that you think would be helpful for us to know, please e-mail us.
[CONFIRMATION]

TROY HIEMER: Absolutely. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: We have found so many talented Nebraskans such as yourself that are willing to volunteer their time on these boards. I am always amazed at that. So we really appreciate it. So... [CONFIRMATION]

TROY HIEMER: Thank you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...let us know. And take care of that cold. [CONFIRMATION]

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TROY HIEMER: Thank you. Thank you for your time, Senators. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Uh-huh, thank you, Troy. Our last appointee to be with us today, colleagues, because Mr. Holtzworth (phonetic) could not attend is Charles LaFollette. Am I saying that correct? [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: Absolutely. That's correct. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Okay. And do you go by "Charles" or...? [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: "Chuck." [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Chuck? Okay. You've heard it all, here. (Laughter) And you are a new appointment. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: I am a new appointment, yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: You are a new appointment, so tell us about yourself and what got you interested in serving. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: Absolutely. I was born and raised in Indiana. I...last June I retired after 24 years with the U.S. Marshals Service. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Hmm. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: My duties and offices took me from Cheyenne, Wyoming to Los Angeles, which was a culture shock; from Los Angeles here to Lincoln for ten years; and my last ten years I was in Dallas. And I retired in June of last year and came back here because of family. The last ten years that I was assigned to Dallas I was actually assigned to the Centers for Disease Control. That unit was responsible...the unit that I was in was responsible for moving vaccine around the country, getting it to where it needed to go, bringing it in from out of the country, and making sure it got to where it needed to go peacefully. As you all know during the bombing at the World Trade Center, the CDC tried to get medicine down into the boroughs of New York City, and they were stopped at the Holland Tunnel. And nobody would let them go through because they didn't know who they were. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Uh-huh. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: So the CDC decided that they needed a federal agency that could go around the country and get them to where they needed to go. So they signed an agreement with the Marshals Service, and that's how the unit was formed. So I did

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that for the last ten years. Like I said, I retired in June of last year, a couple years early so my wife could come back here--she's originally from Hastings--and care for her aging parents. And when I first got back, I retired kind of young so I was, you know, edgy around the house, and she said I needed to go somewhere. (Laughter) So I got a job with the Department of Health and Human Services in their Division of Public Health as their training exercise coordinator. I did that for about six months and then realized, because of my federal retirement, that I am under the Social Security limits. And so I had to give up that position. But I have since come back as a contractor for them, and I'm working on their continuity of operations plan. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Continuity of operations. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: Yes, it's...if you're a business and your business has to shut down or transfer to some other location, you need to have a way of continuing operations, whether it's next door or in another city or someplace like that. The Division of Public Health had a continuity of operations plan, but it was a pandemic plan. And my responsibility is to change it to an all-hazards plan, because, in all actuality, you have to plan for all hazards, not just a pandemic. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I'm somewhat surprised that they don't have one. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: Well, they do have a pandemic plan, but it's...they need to be an all-hazards plan. And...but... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Interesting. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: Foresight saw that they needed it, and they're working on it, so... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Interesting. Well, we're really glad you decided to come back to Nebraska and resettle here. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: I am too. I miss the warm weather in Texas, but I am glad to be near family. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Maybe it's a good thing we aren't doing this a couple weeks ago when it was below zero. (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: Exactly. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And then it might not have been...well, I'm so pleased to see someone with your background and experience serve on the Board of Emergency

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Medical Services, because I would imagine when you worked for the marshals you saw a lot of different operations across the country. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: Saw a lot of things, and we had to...as part of the CDC, we are also required to be EMT nationally registered. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Ah. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: So in case we were out in the field and something happened, we were able to take care of our partners that we were traveling with and take care of them and make sure they were okay, so... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Amazing. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: ...it's something I became very interested in. And so when I got back and saw this opportunity, I volunteered for it and am happy to serve. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: But you would...you would bring, you know, such a different perspective than what we might see, certainly, from the other members that serve on it, because of looking at a lot of states and how they operate. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: Yes, actually, when I was in Dallas, we, my partner and I, were assigned to four states: we had Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Louisiana, a huge territory. And we were responsible for going to those local health departments and law enforcement in that area and helping them to train for an event, whether it's a bioterrorism event or a natural disaster, and how to get their people prophylaxes, to get them pills, and to people in a certain amount of time. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Hmm, very fascinating listening. Senator Gloor. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Just curious, were you stationed at F.E. Warren? [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: Yes, I was, for four years. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Yeah, me too, for a shorter period of time than that. But did you know that that's where aeromedical evac for traffic accidents started, was out of F.E. Warren? [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: No, I didn't know that. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR GLOOR: Yeah. Yeah, it's interesting that you'd be serving on the board. But I was a medic stationed there, and the helicopters that flew out to the silos were...an arrangement was made with the state of Wyoming that they could service traffic accidents. And so they would scramble the flight teams to pick up accident victims and bring them back in to either Cheyenne or Fort Collins or wherever. But it's a little-known bit of...now there are so many helicopters flying so many people around, but it actually got its start at F.E. Warren. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: Cheyenne is a little-known place; it's (laugh)... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Yeah. I imagine you have some pretty good stories about Frontier Days... [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: Yes, it was... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: ...from your days on the police force. (Laugh) [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: I was actually on the police department for seven years... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: I saw that. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: ...before I went with the Marshals Service. So, yeah, Frontier Days was quite a riot. Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I guess so. And you served in the Air Force? [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: I did, for four years. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you for your service. Were you stationed in the United States or...? [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: Yes, my...all four years were in Cheyenne. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Ah. Did you think that was a good deal, or would you rather have been stationed... [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: Well, when I got the...hired by the Marshals Service into Los Angeles, I was thinking it was a great deal. It was quite a culture shock going to L.A. and, you know, that traffic and then the people. And we lived ten miles from the office,

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but it took me an hour and a half to get home. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Yes. We always talk about the people complain in Lincoln, or I'm sure they complain in Omaha, about the rush traffic. And I had a good friend who grew up in New York City, and she used to call it a "rush minute" (laughter) here in Lincoln, compared to what she experienced. Other questions or concerns or...we just thank you very much for your patience in waiting to come up, Chuck, and talk to us. And I'll...looking forward to what your perspective will be as a new member of the board. So, again, you know, if there's anything that you think needs to come to our attention, please don't hesitate. And thanks for your service: Air Force and... [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: Thank you. And thanks for the opportunity; I appreciate it. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...and the Marshals Service. It's been an interesting afternoon for us, that is for sure. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES LAFOLLETTE: Thank you very much, Senators. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Colleagues, that is all of the appointments. We will meet tomorrow afternoon to hear...we only have two or three testifiers, so it should be a relatively short afternoon. And then tomorrow afternoon we'll kind of go over the schedule for next week. Drive safely; I think it's, what, now sunny and... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: It's perfect out there. [CONFIRMATION]