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Rough Draft

Appropriations Committee  
February 26, 2013

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[AGENCY 45]

SENATOR MELLO: Good afternoon. [AGENCY 45]

RON PELLA: Good afternoon. Senator Mello and members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Ron Pella, R-o-n P-e-l-l-a; and for the record, my 28th and final appearance before the Appropriations Committee. I am the grandfather of Joshua James, Samuel Allen, Zachary Colton, Abigail Rose, Lillian Kay (all names phonetic), all (inaudible) and all exceptional students at their respective schools, and to a lesser official ranking, the director for the Board of Barber Examiners. The members of the Barber Board asked that I take this opportunity to inform you, our profession continues...(phone rings) I shut that off, Senator. I swear. I just sat back there when you said... [AGENCY 45]

SENATOR MELLO: Because of the significance of your testimony today, we will let that slide. [AGENCY 45]

RON PELLA: The members of the Barber Board asked that I take this opportunity to inform you, our profession continues to benefit from government sanctioning of occupational licensing and we take that responsibility seriously and with respect to the Legislature for the authority granted to the board and to those individuals that we govern. In Governor Heineman's State of the State Address in January 15, 2009, and I quote, and it's a favorite quote of mine, our attitude to encourage agencies to save and keep it is a more businesslike approach than the past of spend it or lose it. To save it and keep it has been our agency's philosophy since 1985. Our agency in 1985 and our appropriations to this day has raised less than \$3,000 per year, with 95 percent of that being beyond our control. So what I'm trying to tell you is we're the best ship in the shipping business. The agency's request and the committee's recommendations will adequately fund our agency and there are a few things with our budget that are not of the normal variety. We did a strategic agency planning project. We did what we refer to

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as a comprehensive succession plan for the individual that will take over my job. We're a small agency and the succession plan is very, very important. So there's a few extra dollars in this year's budget that would normally not be there, but those are very important to our agency and for the success of that to take place. As of Monday of this week, yesterday, I have given at least two hours to all five finalists on a detail of what their job consists of and I will spend approximately 30 days, of some weeks two days, some days three, but for a total of 30 to help them transition into that position. Senator Mello and committee members, may God bless and guide you with your work in the days to come for the betterment of our state and its people. And I mean that sincerely. I've said it before and I'll say it again, and I'd say it again if I was to come back. But I truly mean that. And that concludes my testimony and I'm willing to answer any questions that you may have. [AGENCY 45]

SENATOR MELLO: Thank you, Director Pella. And may I be the first to say thank you for your extensive public service to this state and to the Board of Barber Examiners. We've had conversations over the interim in regards to the work your agency does as well as with your soon-to-be retirement. I think on behalf of a grateful state, we thank you for sharing time today, sharing your feedback, and wish you well as you move into your retirement. So thank you. [AGENCY 45]

RON PELLA: Thank you. [AGENCY 45]

SENATOR MELLO: Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, you go off with a bang. (Applause) Are there any other testifiers on Agency 45, Board of Barber Examiners? Seeing none, the Agency 45 hearing is closed. [AGENCY 45]