

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

Health and Human Services Committee  
February 27, 2014

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[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on Health and Human Services met at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 27, 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; Bob Krist, Vice Chairperson; Tanya Cook; Sue Crawford; Mike Gloor; Sara Howard; and Dan Watermeier. Senators absent: None.

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I think we'll go ahead and open the gubernatorial appointment public hearing for this afternoon for the Health and Human Services Committee. I'm going to go through a few things first. We are expecting the first two people, colleagues, on your list are phoning in today. And then, I believe, the rest of our appointments are here. Just kind of some small details. If you have a cell phone or a tablet with you, would you turn it on silent or turn it off because it can be very disturbing if someone is up here talking to us and a phone is ringing. The other thing is, is when you come forward and sit down, go ahead and state your name for the record and spell it. That's so that the transcribers can hear your voice and know how you want your name spelled. The other thing I want you to know is the process. The process is that we visit with you today, and really, that's what it is. We're not here to grill you on all kinds of questions. But the important thing is that we get to know you and your interest in serving on whatever board you've been appointed to by the Governor. The committee, then, votes on your appointment and we forward our recommendation to the full Legislature. And then the full Legislature votes. You do not need to do anything beyond today. The committee handles everything from this point on. And at some point, I'm sure you will hear from the board or commission that you have been appointed to that you're coming to a meeting. So unless there's any change in that, we don't anticipate that. Most appointees are approved by this committee and by the full Legislature. So we will wait for the first person to call in. Dr. Salansky...we're looking...colleagues, you do not have his name on the list. We are getting the packet...we're finding the packet of information on Dr. Salansky. Am I saying your name correctly, sir? [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: Salansky, yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Okay, thank you. All right, well, we'll just wait a minute or two and see if the call comes in. Technology is great; we keep saying that. There we go. Good afternoon. [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Hello. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: How are you? [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: I'm good. How are you? [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR CAMPBELL: Very good. [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Good. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Is it Jessye? [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Jessye, I'm Senator Kathy Campbell and I serve as Chair for the Health and Human Services Committee... [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Uh-huh. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...and we're really glad to have a chance to visit with you today. What I'm going to do is have my colleagues introduce themselves so you know who's here. And we'll start on my far right. [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

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

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

SENATOR COOK: I'm Tanya Cook from District 13 in northeast Omaha and Douglas County. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Bob Krist from District 10, northwest Omaha and Bennington.  
[CONFIRMATION]

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

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

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

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And Stuart and Emily are our pages who are with us today. So if you need some assistance, the pages would be very glad to help you. Jessye...  
[CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...could you go ahead and say your full name and spell it for us for the record? [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Sure. It's Jessye Goertz, J-e-s-s-y-e, Goertz is G-o-e-r-t-z. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Okay. Jessye, tell us a little bit about yourself and how you got interested in serving on the Rural Health Advisory Commission. [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: (Exhibit 1) Sure. I am a registered dietician and I'm an extension educator for the University of Nebraska in Custer County and so my office is in Broken Bow. And I am focusing, pretty much in my programming, on the issue of childhood obesity. But because I'm the only extension educator that works in the nutrition area in Custer County, I pretty much focus on many different health issues here in Custer County. And I don't know if everybody knows this or not, I suppose you probably do, but Custer County is the second largest geographical county in the state and so we cover a large area. There's about ten different communities within the one county. And so there, you know, there's lots of miles to cover. And so I try to not just get the nutrition education but all sorts of different health issue information and education out to the people of Custer County. And then, also, I serve on several committees statewide and with the Nebraska Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. And so I am very familiar with current and upcoming issues related to health. And I'm just interested in, not only what I might be able to bring to the commission, but also what I might be able to learn by serving on the commission and then bringing back to the people of Custer County. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Jessye, I noticed on the information that you provided, you serve on five major boards. [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Uh-huh. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: It looks like four of them are statewide or three of them are statewide. Any...would you like to provide any information? Tell us a little bit about the Governor's Council on Health Promotion and Physical Activity. [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Okay. That group no longer meets. That was something that...actually, it was a, you know, a...it wasn't a board and it wasn't a commission but it was a council, I guess. I was very familiar with some of the people that work, like, in Health and Human Services and I found out about that group that was meeting and so I applied for it and much in the same way, if I remember correctly, that I applied for this commission. And so I was appointed to that council. And we met, I think maybe, four times a year. You know, it seems like the structure was somewhat the same although

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the purpose was not the same. And then when Health and Human Services received the huge CDC grant, they pretty much...they...part of their grant requirements were that they would put together an advisory committee. And so some of the people on the council, the Governor's Council, applied for that advisory committee and so, then, I was one of those people. And then...so that it went from the one to the other. And so that's why now, I'm serving on the Advisory Committee for the Partners N Health.

[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Oh, I see. [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: I don't...that might not be very clear. You might want...if it's not, I could tell you. You know, maybe clear it up for somebody. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: No, that does make sense. [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And oftentimes that is a step that's taken. They start with an advisory committee. You know, they fold that into the grant, so excellent.

[CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Right. Uh-huh. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I'm...you know, I have to tell you. I've never heard of...is it Berwyn? [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Oh, you've never heard of Berwyn? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I'm really sorry, I have not. How far is it? [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: If you've ever gone from Grand Island to Alliance on Highway 2... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I have. [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: ...you've gone through Berwyn. It's a small town. I think there's even less than 100 people and it's about seven miles down Highway 2 to the east from Broken Bow. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you very much. I have driven it but I, obviously, blanked out that I was going through Berwyn, so thank you. Tell us...I have one more question and then we'll open it up to the other senators. [CONFIRMATION]

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JESSYE GOERTZ: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: What do you hope to achieve on serving on the Rural Health Advisory Committee? What are you looking forward to? [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Well, you know, I feel like I'm just sort of getting my feet wet. So there may be more expectations, you know, that come with time, you know, as I learned more about what exactly it is that we'll be doing or what the commission does. But my goal is to bring rural Nebraska...I know probably all the people that serve are from rural Nebraska so it wouldn't be like I would be the one representing rural Nebraska. But bring more of rural Nebraska to the commission. And then also find resources and opportunities for the people of Custer County and maybe bring some of those...that information and education back to our area. So it would be kind of a reciprocal kind of thing. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Excellent. Are you still there, Jessye? Hello. I think she'll call back in. You can't pick up that phone. Hello, Jessye? [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: We're sorry about that. We just had a momentary...someone picked up the phone and we didn't realize that it was going to cut you off so we're sorry about that. [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Oh, okay. That's fine. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Other questions from the senators? Senator Gloor. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you for your interest in serving. I believe Custer County has both a hospital in Broken Bow and Callaway, is that correct? [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Yeah. Yes, that's true. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Do you have a working relationship with those hospitals through the nutrition work you do and as an extension agent? We're heading toward some, obviously, difficult times for everybody but, especially, rural hospitals. I'm just wondering if you've got a relationship with those institutions. [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: I have a great relationship with the hospital here in Broken Bow, not so much in Callaway. I don't...I go to Callaway to do nutrition education in the school but don't actually work with the hospital. But just this morning, as a matter of fact, I was at a meeting at the hospital. And Mike Steckler was telling us about a needs assessment

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that the hospital has done. And I have cochaired or probably even chaired the Custer County Health Coalition for the last, probably, 13 years. And we meet at the hospital and we have representation of all the people who--not all the people but whoever is interested in attending--people who represent the different health organizations that serve the people of Custer County. And so he has used the Custer County Health Coalition as his group to bring the needs assessment to in order to see what we can do to meet some of the things that he found out through that needs assessment. So yes, I would say I have an excellent relationship with the Broken Bow hospital.  
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Great. Glad to hear it. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Any other questions? Senator Howard. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Hi, Jessye, this is Senator Howard from Omaha. And I'm a big fan of public health departments. Are you still serving on the Loup Basin Public Health Department board of directors? [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: No, I'm not. I served on that when it was originally formed when the legislation became...or the funding became available to get those rural health departments started. And so I served on that for maybe, I'm going to say, six years. So, you know, I went through the...all the growing pains, you know, of the birthing pains I guess you'd say, of the health department to get it kind of off the ground. And so I'm very familiar with it and I also still do some programming with the health department.  
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: What kind of programming are you doing with them?  
[CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Well, I do nutrition education. They have occasionally received some funding. And since the nutrition education is my expertise, I've done some...kind of co-taught some classes. We do a...we created a program called Nutrition Mission. And so I've taken another educator, the educator who works out of the Ord extension office, and I have taught this program in all nine counties of the Loup Basin Public Health Department. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: That's wonderful. Thank you for your willingness to serve on the Rural Health Advisory. [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Sure. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Any other questions, Senators? Jessye, I don't see any other questions. We really do want to, again, thank you for your willingness to serve. And

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from your background with nutrition and working with the rural counties, I think you'll be a great asset to the commission, so. [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Okay. Well, thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: If at any time there's something that you feel...information that you feel would be helpful to the Health and Human Services Committee, I hope you will feel free to contact us. [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Okay, thanks a lot. I really appreciate it. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thanks, Jessye. You have a good day. [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Okay, you too. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Bye-bye. [CONFIRMATION]

JESSYE GOERTZ: Bye. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Is our other person on, Chuck? Oh, okay. Good afternoon. [CONFIRMATION]

ROBERT NEWMAN: Yes. Good afternoon. It's Robert Newman here. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Robert Newman, and you go by Robert? [CONFIRMATION]

ROBERT NEWMAN: Yes, ma'am. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I'm Kathy Campbell and senator from District 25 in Lincoln. [CONFIRMATION]

ROBERT NEWMAN: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I serve as the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. We're so glad that you could take time to visit with us today. What we're going to do is, we really kind of want to know about you and your interest in the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. But Robert, before we start, I'm going to have my colleagues introduce themselves so you know who's here today. And we'll start with the senator on my right. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: This is Senator Sara Howard. I represent District 9 in midtown Omaha. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR COOK: I'm Senator Tanya Cook. I represent District 13 in northeast Omaha and Douglas County. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Bob Krist, District 10, northwest Omaha and Bennington.  
[CONFIRMATION]

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

SENATOR GLOOR: I'm Mike Gloor. I'm the senator from Grand Island, District 35.  
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Sue Crawford, senator from eastern Sarpy County.  
[CONFIRMATION]

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

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And we have two pages with us, Emily and Stuart. Robert, you're going to be a new appointment to the commission. So could you tell us a little bit about yourself and how you got interested in serving on the commission?  
[CONFIRMATION]

ROBERT NEWMAN: (Exhibit 2) Yes. And first, of course, you know, thank you all for the work that you do for the state. It's greatly appreciated. And my interest in the commission comes from the fact that I am blind. I went blind at age 15. And shortly after that, I became a consumer of the, then, Services for the Visually Impaired. They worked with me when I was in high school and when I graduated from high school, they assisted me to go to massage school where I did receive training and started my first job out of high school. So I went off to Kentucky and I was a massage therapist for two years and two months. And by that time, I got enough confidence in myself for living alone and being able to do everything necessary, you know, to live and to work. So I decided to come back to Nebraska and I entered UNO. And, again, I was a commission client at that time and they assisted me to get a degree in teaching. And during that time I had quite a bit of counseling and work with the staff at the, then, Services for the Visually Impaired. And once I finished my training there at UNO, I was able to apply for a job there and was accepted to work for the Services for the Blind. That was in December of 1973. And what's interesting about that is, just four years into...well, four months into my employment there, the citizens of Nebraska...the blind citizens, got together and talked to you guys and the, you know, the then Governor and told them of the problems that they were having with that administration of the Services for the Blind. So they were able to get you guys to kick that group of people out, that management, because what they were doing, they were spending most of their time and effort helping



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people that did not have money to get surgery for their eyes. So they were helping more people to get eye surgery than they were working with, you know, the severely visually impaired citizens of Nebraska. So the blind then were able to, you know, recommend who they would like to have come in. And from that experience and the new administration that came in, boy, I'll tell you, I really learned what blindness is all about and that, you know, we definitely are...we, as humans, are just very intelligent and adaptive and blindness really doesn't have to be a major handicap to stop us from living a full life. So that's what I really learned. And I stayed there, working there, for 37 years. I just retired in December of 2010. And I'll tell you what, I enjoyed every Monday. And during my time there, I really did a pretty good job because I was really passionately involved because, again, it had to do a lot about my life. So I went from a VR counselor to a district supervisor, then to assistant director. Then I found out that management really kind of wasn't what I wanted to do. So I went back into the field and finished out as a vocational counselor. But during that time, again, I did quite a bit. The staff really respected me, so did the administration. I did a lot of sticking up in staff meetings. I was able to get several new things started. I was supervisor of the year one time. I was also counselor of the year one time. And now that I'm retired, I'm doing some volunteer work back there at the Omaha office and the Lincoln office. Plus, I've also been hired a couple of times to be a mentor for new vocational counselors. So it's been good. And this being a commissioner is just, in my mind, just another phase of my involvement in blindness in Nebraska. And that the commission and the services, you know, that are there to, again, help blind Nebraskans, you know, be responsible citizens and just be able to do everything that all other citizens can do. So I like it, so I'm just super happy and excited, you know, to be appointed. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Well, Robert, I'm sure I speak for all the senators. We are very appreciative of your willingness to serve because you just have such an extensive background. And your resume is very long and distinguished. I would like you to talk a little bit, though, because you received, I believe, a national award for your Web site Thought Provider or Provoker? [CONFIRMATION]

ROBERT NEWMAN: Thought Provoker. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thought Provoker. Could you tell me? I was really fascinated by that. [CONFIRMATION]

ROBERT NEWMAN: One of my hobbies is writing. I like stories. And of course, being a longtime counselor and instructor in blindness-related, you know, life techniques and things, I decided that I was going to blend those two things so that I could work both in towards helping everyone who are readers, be they sighted or they be blind, you know, to learn more about, again, the human ability to cope and live with blindness. So that Thought Provoker thing, they were...I wrote 154 short little stories. They started out just being 100 words. Then I gradually expanded them to be 300 words. And at the end,

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they were like 700 words each. And I did that for 11 years. I was...my Thought Provokers are, even to this very day, are being used in college courses, you know, to, again, demonstrate, you know, just counseling techniques, you know, instructional techniques and just, again, how people react in situations in life, be they blind. And so that was awarded to me through a consumer group that I'm a part of. In fact, I've been a part of it since 1969. It's the National Federation of the Blind. And so that was in 2008 when I was given that first-time Dr. Bolotin Award. I don't know if you guys know him, but he was a totally blind doctor in Chicago. He was the first and only guy back in that time period, you know, that went through medical school and came out being a medical doctor. So it was in his honor that his family put together this grant/scholarship thing. So anyway, I was given one of those and I was very proud to receive it. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: You should be because I was just fascinated. Thank you for telling me the story. You will be going into a different role with the commission, as a commissioner rather than as a staff person. How do you think that will change for your role and what are some things that the senators need to know about the future for those who are blind and visually impaired? A lot of questions there. [CONFIRMATION]

ROBERT NEWMAN: That's okay. Recently, when I was talking with other commissioners, I was describing, you know, the Commission for the Blind here, is that it's a really good outfit. We have a good reputation across the United States. In most states...again, I learned this from my involvement in the National Federation of the Blind. I go to national conventions every year. I'd meet blind people from all the various states. And Nebraska is one of the just a handful of states that really has a very positive, forward-thinking staff. And our products...it's like we are the goose that lays the golden egg. And also having, you know, worked there at that commission, I know where all the strengths are and where there are some areas that need to be tightened up. And like I say, the staff, they talk to me now, they talked to me then. And what I'm saying is, that this goose, you know, again, it's one of the better flock that's produced some of the best products in this country. But this goose could use a little bit of tune up internally and so that we could even do a better job of what we're doing now. So I'm going to be able to, I think, get some things told me by staff where...there are good things that go on. They need to be praised, you know, with management. And also can learn where there are some needs that, possibly, aren't being taken care of because just any organization, there can be communication problems or there can be personalities and whatever, that sometimes it's hard for the workers, you know, to sometimes communicate with, you know, who is overseeing them. And again, I'm saying that this goose is a healthy goose but it's like any of us. When it comes to healthcare and longevity, there's just, you know, some procedures and some things that just, at times, need to be addressed. So I'm saying that I'm in a very unique situation where I think I can instigate, you know, some measures, you know, that I think will end up making everybody happier, everybody work harder and, again, the blind citizens in the state because I'm also, again, part of this consumer group here. And I know everyone in all

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the other consumer groups because a lot of them have been my former client and colleague. So, again, I'm very well known just in the blind community. So, again, I have a unique situation there where I get their ear and they trust me too. I'm just thinking the whole combination of things is so unique with, in my case, that I think I could really just be good for everybody (inaudible). [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, Robert. Other questions from the senators?  
Senator Howard. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Hi, Mr. Newman. This is Senator Howard. How are you?  
[CONFIRMATION]

ROBERT HOWARD: Very good. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Are you still on South 57th Street? [CONFIRMATION]

ROBERT NEWMAN: Yes, I am. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: I grew up around the corner from you on 55th and Howard. I'm Gwen's daughter. [CONFIRMATION]

ROBERT NEWMAN: Aha. I thought...okay, very good. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Well, I'm so excited for your willingness to serve. And you're the first person from my district who's been up for a gubernatorial appointment. So thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

ROBERT NEWMAN: Thank you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: For our audience here, Senator Howard's mother, Senator Howard--sometimes called Senator Howard I--also served on the Health and Human Services Committee, so. [CONFIRMATION]

ROBERT NEWMAN: Excellent. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Robert, I think that's all the questions today. Thank you for taking time to visit with us. The process is that we will take your name to the full Legislature, so you don't really need to do anything else. And I'm sure that then the commission will be notified of your appointment and you can start to work.  
[CONFIRMATION]

ROBERT NEWMAN: Excellent. Thank you all very much. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR CAMPBELL: Have a good afternoon. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

ROBERT NEWMAN: All right. You too. Good-bye. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Bye. All right. Our next gubernatorial appointment is Carol La-micky (phonetically). I'm probably not saying...am I saying that correct, Doctor? [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Close. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Close. [CONFIRMATION]

\_\_\_\_\_ : Law-micky (phonetically). [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Law-micky, Law-micky (phonetically), thank you. Please sit down. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Good afternoon, Senators. My name is Carol Lomicky, spelled L-o-m-i-c-k-y. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And you can sit if you'd like to. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: You come to the commission as a reappointment. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: That is correct. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: So you have already served. And, colleagues, I took the liberty this morning of talking to Senator Hadley... [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...and he said, yes, he knew you quite well and had served with you when he was on the faculty... [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...at Kearney. And so I wanted you to know that he was very glowing in his comments to me... [CONFIRMATION]

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CAROL LOMICKY: Well, that's good to know. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...and glad you were serving, so. Tell us a little bit about yourself and your experience on the commission. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: (Exhibit 3) Okay. Well, I guess since you mentioned Senator Hadley, I was a professor at the University of Nebraska at Kearney for about 30 years. I retired in July, a year ago July. I lost my hearing relatively quickly about five years ago. And I was surprised at the many issues that people faced who have hearing loss and totally ignorant about the kinds of services that are available to people. A colleague of mine had served on the commission and so I was familiar with some of what the commission did. And when I was asked to serve, I jumped at the chance. My first three years, the first term, was primarily a learning experience, learning about particular issues facing hard-of-hearing people as well as people who are deaf. I think the most important thing for me was the kind of education I got from my service there. It gave me the confidence to become a kind of advocate in the Kearney region, particularly for getting hearing loop assistive devices in public venues as well as in churches around there. And I'm happy to report, we have, like, an old renovated theater is now looped. The Merryman Performing Arts Center is looped. The library has gotten loops. And the Senior Center has a number of rooms that are looped. So I'm really excited about that. So I wanted to have another term on the commission to continue to keep learning and, of course, to offer my services in whatever way I can to advocate for people who suffer hearing loss. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Carol, I noticed in the materials that we were given that you had received a cochlear implant about a year ago. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: That is correct. It's been about five years ago. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Oh, I'm sorry. I misread that. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Yeah. That's okay. Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And was...enabled you to hear, what would you say? One hundred percent or... [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Well, no. People who have hearing aids and/or cochlear implants, they're godsend. You know, it's the difference between hearing some and not hearing at all. Having said that, these kinds of devices do not give you 100 percent hearing. And that's why we need help. So the hearing loop, for example, is a device that enhances the ability to understand words. That's the hardest part when you have hearing loss. You can hear and you can read lips. And I think we all get better and better at that. But

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something like a hearing loop really increases word recognition. So I can now, for example, go to movies in Kearney and go hear concerts and see performances at the Performing Arts Center, so. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Interesting. Thank you. Senator Cook. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR COOK: Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you for joining us today. Is the hearing loop a device that you take to your seat with you and it provides closed captioning, because I was approached by a woman to introduce legislation related to that device. Is that the same thing? [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: No. What a hearing loop is, is it's actually a wire that's looped around a room. Sometimes, if it's a big room, it requires a little different configuration like a figure eight. But it's...just think of a wire that goes under the carpeting or under the ceiling tiles. And then people with hearing aids and cochlear implants that are equipped with what they call a telecoil or a T-coil, you just switch it on and you're inside this kind of infrared, magnetic field. People that don't have these devices, they don't hear a thing. But people like me switch on your T-coil and the sound just goes right directly into the processor. And so it eliminates all that background noise, echoing. It's like a little voice just talking right there inside your head. It's wonderful. The Lexington United Methodist Church recently was looped. And my husband and I drove down to attend a church service there. And it's the first church service sermon I have heard in years because of the loop. So that's what it is. There are portable loops that people can wear if they don't have a hearing aid or a cochlear implant if they're inside this magnetic area. And it works the same way. Does that answer your question? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR COOK: Yes, it does. Yes, it does. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Other questions? That was very helpful, Carol. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I mean, we've...I've had that explained before but never quite as well. One other thing I want to touch on before we let you go. In the resume that we were given about you, you have received numerous awards and been very involved in the field of journalism. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: I have. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: So I thought you might want to mention a few things of what you've done in the journalism field because it would be helpful, I'm sure, to the commission, your background in all the journalism that you have done.

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[CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Well, I actually was a journalist first. A long, long time ago, I was a newspaper reporter and editor and photographer. And then I was lucky enough to experience teaching. The Journalism Department in Kearney called me in to just teach a couple of classes. And I was smitten. It was just a wonderful...I enjoyed it so much and I had a lot of war stories, having been out there. And so I was lucky enough to get a position in the Journalism Department there. And then I had to, of course, get my education up to par. So I went to school and taught and got my Ph.D. in 1996. So I taught mostly media law, theory and research classes, some reporting and writing classes. It was a wonderful career. I love being retired because it gives me time to do a lot of the other projects that I never had time for. But I do miss those students.

[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Well, I'm sure you found an interest in our conversation with Robert about his writing on the Thought Provoker. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I just found that fascinating. The two of you ought to get together, I think, and talk about that. Any other questions for Carol? Thank you so much for coming today and your willingness to serve again. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Thank you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Absolutely. [CONFIRMATION]

CAROL LOMICKY: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Our next appointee is John Hogue. Am I saying that correctly, sir? [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN HOGUE: Good afternoon. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Good afternoon. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN HOGUE: John Hogue, J-o-h-n, last name, H-o-g-u-e. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And I should say, pastor. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN HOGUE: Sure, if you want to. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Absolutely. Absolutely. Well, tell us a little bit about yourself.

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[CONFIRMATION]

JOHN HOGUE: (Exhibit 4) Well, I'm from the East Coast, I'm from Pennsylvania, originally. And I've come to the great state of Nebraska, which I love dearly, wonderful people. I've been a minister for 20 years now. I have an anniversary coming up. And let's see, I'm...see this lovely lady behind me? I've been married to that wonderful lady for 21 years. In a couple of weeks we'll have an anniversary. And we have three wonderful boys. Daniel, our oldest, is in Crete at Doane College. He's a sophomore. And we have two younger boys, freshman and a fifth grader. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Excellent. And you have been with the Arlington Community Church for how long? [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN HOGUE: It will be soon be four years. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Four years. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN HOGUE: Uh-huh. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And 20 years in the ministry. Where did you come from before you were in Arlington? [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN HOGUE: I was in the state of Missouri right outside of St. Louis, a town called Wentzville. I was there six years. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: In the communities that you've been in, Pastor, have you been involved in any commission for the hearing impaired? [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN HOGUE: No, ma'am, I have not. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I was just thinking maybe there was a comparison that you might make from what you saw in other states compared to Nebraska, but. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN HOGUE: Uh-huh. I have not, no. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I'm sure we can very much appreciate your service on the commission. As someone who is a pastor, you have a unique perspective to begin with in terms of listening to people. And so what other attributes do you think will help you in serving on the commission? [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN HOGUE: To be honest, I had spinal meningitis when I was 1. And in those dark ages, I should have died, but I didn't. And I was saved by a young doctor who came out



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of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. And he discovered that I...my fluid in my spine was abnormal and was able to determine that I had the problem, saved my life with sulfa drugs. And I grew up...they didn't discover my hearing loss until I was four. You remember those phonographs on the little...well, I had my head on it. That's how I could discriminate. And so for the longest time, I could not even speak. So I took lipreading classes, learning to struggle in the mainstream. My mom believed in mainstreaming me in the public schools. It wasn't easy. And with my experience growing up and the hardship the hard-of-hearing and deaf community have to endure, I bring that experience. I know about bullying. I know about discrimination, even in my own faith tradition, the local church says is autonomous. But I'm a resilient individual, I don't take "no" for an answer. And so I'm very persistent, quietly, in general. I think my wife can attest to that. And...but she's my better half and I really appreciate her involvement. And because of my experience, I will bring a listening ear and bring a quiet, centering presence to everybody. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I'm sure you will be, Pastor. Other questions from the senators? Senator Gloor. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Campbell. And thank you, Reverend Hogue. I find it interesting you're the second individual we've had hearings with who served on the board at Camp Kaleo. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN HOGUE: Uh-huh. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: And I was a counselor at Camp Kaleo... [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN HOGUE: Wonderful. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: ...some years ago. But it's a wonderful camp and I don't think I realized it was UCC connected. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN HOGUE: Uh-huh. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Perhaps I did in my younger days. But thank you for your willingness to serve on that board. Thank you for your willingness to serve on this board. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN HOGUE: Thank you. You're welcome, sir. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Any other questions or comments? Pastor, thank you very much for coming today. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN HOGUE: Thank you all. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR CAMPBELL: And we wish you just the best on your appointment and thanks so much for serving. There is, without question, you will bring a very good perspective as...we always talk about doing these hearings and then we are so amazed at the talent of people all across the state. And I'm sure I speak for all of your appointees behind you, we're many talented people, so. Thank you, again. [CONFIRMATION]

JOHN HOGUE: Thank you for the honor. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Uh-huh. All right. Our next is Gina...and I'm not going to say this...Free-ricks (phonetically)? [CONFIRMATION]

REGINA FRERICHS: Fur-ricks (phonetically). [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Fur-ricks (phonetically)? [CONFIRMATION]

REGINA FRERICHS: Fur-ricks (phonetically)? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Just have a chair. [CONFIRMATION]

REGINA FRERICHS: My legal name is Regina, it's R-e-g-i-n-a and I go by Gina, last name, Frerichs, F-r-e-r-i-c-h-s. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Gina, you are a new appointment, correct,... [CONFIRMATION]

REGINA FRERICHS: I am. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...to that? So tell us a little bit about yourself. [CONFIRMATION]

REGINA FRERICHS: (Exhibit 5) I live in Columbus, Nebraska. I am married, have three children, three daughters. They are 10, 8, and 4. I work at our local health department at East Central District Health Department in Columbus, Nebraska. Public health has been my passion. I have worked in various programs within the health department, vaccine for children coordinator. I've worked in the medical field, student health screenings for nursing. And currently, I am one of our WIC nurses and I'm starting a breast-feeding program for outreach. I lost my hearing in 2000. Well, I wouldn't say 2000. I was in a...when I was a senior in high school, I signed up for the U.S. Army Reserves. And my hearing has resulted from my military exposure. And so since 2007, I've been doing audiograms and my hearing has gradually gotten worse. About a year and a half ago I started wearing hearing aids. And I was just going to let you know that I don't have them in right now. I had an ear infection so I read lips a lot, but I'm doing okay.

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[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Okay. Yes, I would say you're doing exceptionally well here. You also work at the Heartland Gymnastics? [CONFIRMATION]

REGINA FRERICHS: I do. I'm a team gymnastics coach. I have been there since 1998. We took state my freshman and sophomore year in high school in South Dakota. Moved to the state of Nebraska. Love it, but no high school gymnastics so I decided to do the club gymnastics. And actually, after this meeting tonight, I get to go in the gym with my three daughters and I enjoy it a lot. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: What was your specialty when you were a gymnast? [CONFIRMATION]

REGINA FRERICHS: The balance beam by far. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Balance beam? [CONFIRMATION]

REGINA FRERICHS: Balance beam. And any of my gymnasts...I have my middle daughter that might say, hey, you know, I like beam the best. But any other gymnast I teach, they say beam is their worst. So it's always kind of a touchy subject in the gym. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Gina, you probably could not hear the conversation that we had with...who had the cochlear implants. [CONFIRMATION]

REGINA FRERICHS: Correct. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Have you ever looked into that? [CONFIRMATION]

REGINA FRERICHS: I haven't. I've had some struggles. And the reason why I was really brought to this commission, Beth Ellsworth from the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, is my field representative. She was my lifeline. I didn't know where to turn. I was having a lot of struggles at work. Went through our local voc rehab program in Columbus. Through Assistive Technology Partnerships, they got me a lot of assistive devices for work. I was taken out of certain programs that were my passion to a new passion, you know, with WIC. And a lot of roadblocks along the way. And so I will honestly say that I...the reason why I'm passionate about being on this commission is because I don't want anybody, ever, to have to endure what I have endured in the workplace. And it's still ongoing. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Would the military pick up any of the expenses? [CONFIRMATION]

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REGINA FRERICHS: I do have a service connected disability for my hearing loss. However, I was at Fort McClellan, Alabama, and when I was stationed there...I went to there in '96 for basic training, in '97 for my military police training. Somehow between point A and point Z, my hearing...or all my military records were lost. So they know I was there but it's been a hard battle. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Oh, my goodness. [CONFIRMATION]

REGINA FRERICHS: And so even about a month ago, I was denied any increase in my hearing for my compensation because they couldn't find records. And it's very difficult to prove. So I do have that to go back to as far as being...I believe I am the only veteran that will be on this commission. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Excellent. That's just excellent. Have you made any contact with Congressman Fortenberry? [CONFIRMATION]

REGINA FRERICHS: I have not been. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: It might be--and we could certainly assist you--but I would think that the Congressman may be able to help track down some military...that's sort out of our reach... [CONFIRMATION]

REGINA FRERICHS: Sure. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: ...from the military records. But a congressman or one of the U.S. Senators, Senator Johanns and Senator Fischer...we're all very familiar with Senator Fischer. But you might want to think about that because sometimes the congressman or a senator can make a lot of difference in just trying to track down records, at least we've seen that while we were in the Legislature. Other questions from the senators? Senator Howard. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Senator Campbell. And thank you for your willingness to serve. Can you tell me more about your work at the public health department? [CONFIRMATION]

REGINA FRERICHS: I have been there since August of 2006. When I first started there, I worked in our medical program. And with public health, you know, there's a lot of grant funding that's going. So I was our Safe Kids coordinator. And then with funding, things went away, so I was immunizations. I was working...you know, everybody with public health, you wear multiple hats just depending on what day you work. And, you know, I moved to WIC about a year and a half ago. I really enjoy it. Very rewarding, working in the schools as a student health nurse. I worked in nine different schools in our

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four-county service area and I provided roughly 1,600 student health screens. And where people would think that a child had a behavioral disability, found out it was related to hearing loss. And so being an advocate for people means a lot. We do a lot of referrals with the WIC program. And just now, being able to put faces to names and to different programs I didn't know were available, now I do. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Excellent. [CONFIRMATION]

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

REGINA FRERICHS: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Yes. Absolutely. Senator Gloor. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Campbell. And thank you for your interest. And this is sort of as an aside but keep at it with your breast-feeding initiative. I used to be a promoter in my previous life of that as an important public health issue. And so, eat at mom's. It's a great philosophy and so keep it up. Good for you. [CONFIRMATION]

REGINA FRERICHS: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Any other questions? Gina, thank you so much. Have you met Carol and John, the other two people who...could they wave? [CONFIRMATION]

REGINA FRERICHS: Just briefly. Just briefly right before. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: But the three of you may want to visit a little bit because you'll all be serving on the commission together. Gina, we've had a lot of people come forward but it was very interesting to see a veteran serving on one of our commissions. We don't get to see that very often. So thank you for your service to our country and to the commission. [CONFIRMATION]

REGINA FRERICHS: Thank you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And let us know if we can help you, if you decide to go that route. [CONFIRMATION]

REGINA FRERICHS: I will do that. Thank you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Okay. Our next appointment is Shane Fleming. Good afternoon. You can sure just leave it right there. That would be great. [CONFIRMATION]

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SHANE FLEMING: Good afternoon. I'm Shane Fleming, S-h-a-n-e, Fleming, F-l-e-m-i-n-g and, ironically enough, also from Columbus, Nebraska. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I know, it's Columbus day here, isn't it? [CONFIRMATION]

SHANE FLEMING: Apparently it is. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I was looking for Senator Schumacher to see if he knew any of you and I couldn't find him on the floor when I was working on this so I didn't get to talk to him today. Shane, you are an appointment to the State Board of Health, a new appointment. [CONFIRMATION]

SHANE FLEMING: Correct. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: You have not served before. So tell us a little bit about yourself and how you were approached to serve on the Board of Health. [CONFIRMATION]

SHANE FLEMING: (Exhibit 6) Well, I was born and raised in Columbus initially and came up through the golf business. I started working in the golf business when I was 12 and up through college and started working part-time in the ambulance business in the off-season as a golf professional and fell in love with the medical side of things. And got into the ambulance business very early and was in the process of starting my own company at 21. And ended up merging with Rural Metro Ambulance at the time and started a new division in Columbus and brought paramedics to Columbus, Nebraska, and approached the city council there to bring "paramedicine" to Columbus. At that time, we had emergency medical technician basics in the field and I was 22, 23 at the time and had a long paramedic career and in many different capacities and roles. And came back to Columbus by a variety of mechanisms but was in Lincoln for a while and then back to Columbus and through Sioux Falls. I got to help build the paramedic program with Columbus Fire Department as a physician surrogate there as we ended up building that program through the city fire department. And then decided the thing to do was to go to anesthesia school. And I needed to be a nurse to do that or a physician and I opted for the nursing route. So I took my old job back in Sioux Falls and moved up there and obtained my RN degree through the University of South Dakota. And decided that...and I was still...I was heavily involved with the flight program there, both "roto" wing and fixed wing in a paramedic and RN capacity. And ended up taking a job at Good Samaritan in Kearney in the critical care unit there. After doing some investigation, I was told that that would be an excellent environment for anesthesia because they do a variety of care there in terms of critical care. The larger hospitals are more segregated. If you're going to neurosurgery or cardiothoracic surgery, you're in one particular venue, in most cases. This was a variety. And so I opted to come back to Nebraska and function over at Kearney. And moved back...started working part-time for Columbus Community Hospital, which is where I'm at now. And was in the process of

application for anesthesia school and they wanted a substantial amount of money up front. And they told me I couldn't work. And, you know, I had worked full-time through all my education up to this point. And so I just did some more shadowing, making sure that's what I wanted to do and decided that that, maybe, wasn't the route I wanted to take after...I should have figured that out years before that, but I didn't. And I met with a couple of individuals that said, you know, you were kind of an entrepreneurial guy back in the day. And have you ever thought about more of an administration role? And at that time I had been accepted into the family nurse practitioner program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. And I actually met with the dean of the administration wing and elected to switch my degree to administration as opposed to the family nurse practitioner program, which she had never heard that before. In fact, I was the first request ever to do that because it's a pretty difficult program to get accepted to, the family nurse practitioner program. And she said, you know, we've had several applicants that apply for administration after they can't get into the nurse practitioner program. I go, no, that doesn't make a lot of sense. But at any rate, I switched and had a great experience there and have been involved in many functions at Columbus Community Hospital. And you know, as far as my interest in serving on this particular board, you know, I've been involved with the Nebraska Action Coalition. And one of the things that we're looking at is based on the Institute of Medicine report, is really encouraging nursing to increase their education and influence more baccalaureate prepared nurses to the bedside, not only in urban hospitals but in rural hospitals. And so that's been a big initiative of ours. And one of those is nurses serving on boards, is one of our initiatives as well and to sort of promote nursing from a board perspective and bring nursing knowledge to the board as well as increase nursing's overall education. And beyond that, just an overall passion for rural health and access to care and rural health, such as the paramedic program that is now running in Columbus, a hospitalist program that's now operating in Columbus. And with that program...since that inception, we've recruited 53 physicians to Columbus, not in a full-time capacity but some of those in visiting-physician types of roles. It offers us a lot more flexibility in that particular area. And so rural healthcare is kind of a passion of mine and I thought, maybe, serving on this board might give me an opportunity to not only learn a lot...heck, I've already learned a lot today from just sitting here listening to these people. This is phenomenal. So that's why I'm here and that's my interest, at this point. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Shane, you serve as the director of the transitional care at the Columbus Hospital. [CONFIRMATION]

SHANE FLEMING: Uh-huh. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: But that's a large umbrella. My colleagues would look at the resume...that, Shane, you cover a lot of different areas for the hospital under that title. [CONFIRMATION]

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SHANE FLEMING: Right, right. And, you know, that was conceptualized here about two years ago or so when the business plan was put together for that. And conceptually, with where healthcare is going, you know, we have to start, as hospitals, have to start thinking outside of the box. And the days are gone when you can really just, as a hospital, focus on the patient until they leave the door. You have to think about what's going to happen to the patient once they do leave the door. Do they have the appropriate resources in place? Do they have the appropriate care in place? And, you know, the length of stay has gone down so much that we're discharging these folks a lot quicker and they're a lot sicker. And there's also a lot of pressure to not have them come back to the hospital. Years ago it was okay because you just got paid again. And they'd go away and they'd come back and you'd get paid again. And now, that's problematic. So the transitional care concept was really to try and integrate. We built a case management division in there that oversees utilization review practices as well as home health nursing, hospice nursing, skilled nursing, swing bed nursing, as well as patient education. And we've really extended that out into the rural areas in terms...so, for example, we engage long-term care facilities and we reevaluate on a quarterly basis any patient that came into the hospital that may have been readmitted within 30 or 60 days. And we kind of review that case with those other facilities to kind of decide, you know, is there something that we could have done different? Is there something that they could have done different? And really, what it is is just developing collaborative relationships with other facilities beyond the hospital. So that's really the quick, global concept of transitional care. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I have to say, when I looked at all this...Senator Gloor and I have introduced a resolution that looks at (inaudible) healthcare in Nebraska, what should it look like in the next 15 years. And the Health Committee, all my colleagues with Senator Gloor and I, have been so supportive of this effort. I started writing your name on, let's make sure that you get an invitation. We're doing conferences, actually, on this issue. And given your background here, it would be very interesting to see and have your comments as we work through this. We're taking down almost everybody's name here that's today, that we could utilize. So other questions from the senators? Senator Gloor. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you for your interest. It's always nice to have a clinician who becomes a hospital administrator and brings that part of the background to the decisionmaking process. Don Zornes was a friend of mine. [CONFIRMATION]

SHANE FLEMING: Oh, great. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: It looks like you came about the time that Don retired, I think, to the hospital... [CONFIRMATION]

SHANE FLEMING: That's right, yes. Right on the heels of that. [CONFIRMATION]



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SENATOR GLOOR: ...as I recall. He's a good fellow. [CONFIRMATION]

SHANE FLEMING: Uh-huh, yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Here's just for you to file away. I think your largest challenge when you serve on this board--and it's going to be one of your more important ones--has to do with scope of practice. [CONFIRMATION]

SHANE FLEMING: Uh-huh. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Those find their way to this body. But we've undergone a pretty rigorous change in the way the process used to be done, I think, to bring a degree of fairness and science into the process. But it will clearly be a challenge because change has many enemies and very few friends. [CONFIRMATION]

SHANE FLEMING: Uh-huh. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: And so these scope of practice changes usually don't have a lot of friends that go along with them. But we really do count on the Board of Health to help us a lot. [CONFIRMATION]

SHANE FLEMING: Uh-huh. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: So I put that in there as a pitch to...as difficult as it is, we do appreciate the support, legislatively. We appreciate the support we get when the board does its job with those very difficult decisions you have to make. So thanks for your willingness to serve. [CONFIRMATION]

SHANE FLEMING: Uh-huh. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Other questions from the senators? Dr. Salansky, who is going to be our next appointee coming up, has also...but is being reappointed. So the two of you may want to introduce each other because you'll be serving on the Board of Health together, one as a new appointment and one as a reappointment. But, Shane, I really appreciate your willingness to serve. I agree with you that we do need to see nursing representatives on a lot of boards and certainly from the education. We are hearing that in our hearings also, so. Thank you so much for your willingness to accept the appointment. And best of luck. [CONFIRMATION]

SHANE FLEMING: Okay, welcome. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you. Our next appointee, colleagues, is one that you

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should add. Dr. Sal-an-ski (phonetically). Am I saying that correctly, sir?  
[CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: Sal-an-ski (phonetically) is correct, yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And we have reproduced...please have a chair. We reproduced for you, Dr. Salansky's information that was sent to us so that...because he came today and we said, well, we're going to work him in. We don't want to have somebody to come back. So, Doctor, please tell us a little bit about...first of all, state your name and spell it for the record. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: It's Paul Salansky. Salansky is S-a-l-a-n-s-k-y.  
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And go right ahead and tell us a little bit about yourself.  
[CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: Okay, well, first of all, I've met Shane already.  
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Oh, good. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: He did attend our last board meeting. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Good. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: (Exhibit 7) So we've met and glad to have him on the...as part of the board. Going to be a good asset to our board. I represent optometry on the Board of Health. This will be, I think, I'm into my eighth year. I took over midterm someone who dropped off the board, Dr. Jerry Vaughan. I took his spot for a couple of years and then I was appointed to a five-year term which I just finished up. And now I'm seeking reappointment for another five, so. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Excellent. So what has been the biggest surprise for you, serving on the Board of Health? [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: Well, when I took the position, I had...really had no idea what the board was all about. So the whole thing was a surprise. And I think there's probably--and Shane, we've already warned him--there's probably about a year just learning process to kind of really figure out what the board does. And so he's in for a little learning curve time on that. But, you know, once I kind of figured out what was going on, then I, you know, I've been an active participant. I think, in the seven-plus years I've been on the board, I think I've missed one, maybe two, meetings. I served as

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secretary two or three terms, was just reelected secretary last month at our meeting. So I started on the executive council then. I guess the whole thing was a surprise because I really didn't have any expectations. But now that I've been a part of the board for seven years, I can see the value of what the board is doing. And especially the appointments that we make. That's been a big part of the process. I did serve as chairman of that committee for a while and served as rules and regs chairman for a couple of years. So I've been involved in, you know, most of the committees. Been involved with the credentialing review process. I mean, as a board member, you get involved in all the different... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: And everything. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: ...committees and different aspects. But it's been just a real interesting and great learning experience for me. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Well, we certainly appreciate your willingness to serve again. I mean, you've given an enormous amount of time onto this. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: Well, I think I add a little experience. And I know you senators can probably appreciate that term limits, you kind of lose experience. And I see a lot of new faces coming on the board over the last few years. I kind of felt like, well, maybe I ought to hang around a little bit longer. So I do add some, you know, past experience and... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Exactly. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: ...maybe can advise people that, you know, we've kind of looked at some of these issues in the past and this is what was talked about and determined because it seems like a lot of things come up over and over again. After you've been on the board for a while, you kind of see a lot of things repeat themselves. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Questions from the senators? Senator Gloor.  
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Campbell. That's a great comment. Dr. Salansky, I got a little confused at first because you went to Lincoln High School. And of course, the more I looked into it, I realized it was a different Lincoln. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: Lincoln, Illinois, right. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: What brought you from Illinois out to Nebraska X number of years ago? [CONFIRMATION]

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PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: Well, actually, I've been in Nebraska now 35-plus years, I think. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: I...my dad was a minister so I grew up in the Midwest, mainly. But one of his first churches was in Red Oak, Iowa, area. So I was familiar with this part of the country. When I was in graduate school in Chicago, my...all the friends I seemed to make were from Nebraska or the partner...the fellow I went into partnership with was actually from Shenandoah, Iowa, originally. We met in school and he wanted to come back to this area and all these other friends that I'd made in optometry school said, well, come on out and take a look at Nebraska. And so my wife and I did and we liked it. And we've been here since. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: Well, we're glad that that worked out for you. Obviously, I bet Nebraska City is too. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: Nebraska City has been a great place to live, yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: So you've practiced your entire career in Nebraska City, Doctor? [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: Right. Well, actually, Nebraska City and, for a long time, we had a practice in Syracuse. So Senator Watermeier's family were patients of mine when I was in the Syracuse office. I've known him many, many years, and his family, so. I no longer own that practice. I sold that and I'm now only in Nebraska City. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Doctor, you know, given your experience and practice and on the Board of Health, what are changes in healthcare that you think that we're looking at in the future? [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: Well, I think the whole way we look at healthcare seems to be that, with the Affordable Care Act and so forth, that seems to...and the way we look at the way we're serving patients, that whole thing is kind of taking a different turn, different view. It's not, you know, pay for service so much anymore as, you know, let's see how we can find a way to provide services to keep people healthy. And I think that's the challenge is, how are we going to pay providers in a different way. So that's...I think that's still evolving. That's going to be interesting to see how that evolves over the years. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR CAMPBELL: Yeah, I think there would be a number of us on here that would agree with your observations exactly. We are living in a change of time for healthcare, a transforming change, probably, so. Excellent. Any other questions? Doctor, thank you so much for coming today. And I'm sorry if there was any, you know, miscommunication but we're always glad to fit you in and thank you so much. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: Well, I'm glad you were able to work me in. I appreciate that. It's Columbus day, I'm on my way to Columbus for a meeting next, so. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Okay. It's sort of like when you get patients that walk into the office and say, can you just fit me in for a little bit? I've got a problem. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: Well, I do appreciate it. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: We're so glad that you came. And thank you for your service, I mean, and for your willingness, again. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: I really enjoyed it. I met a lot of great people through the board process and made some good friends... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I bet. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: ...so it's been a good experience for me. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Exactly. Well, best of luck to you and thank you again. [CONFIRMATION]

PAUL SALANSKY, JR.: All right. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: (Exhibit 8) Okay, colleagues, we need to ask this question--although there's very few people left--if there's anyone in the hearing room who wishes to make comment on Dr. Joyce Bishoff. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR GLOOR: I think you waited long enough. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: Probably. Okay, what we'd like to do today unless you have an objection, we'd like to take a vote on the people so that Brennen can start working on getting that upstairs because we have so many people. [CONFIRMATION]