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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
April 11, 2006
Confirmation Hearing

The Committee on Health and Human Services met at 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 2006, in Room 1510 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on gubernatorial appointments. Senators present: Jim Jensen, Chairperson; Gwen Howard; Joel Johnson; Doug Cunningham; and Arnie Stuthman. Senators absent: Dennis Byars, Vice Chairperson; Phil Erdman.

SENATOR JENSEN: Okay. Well, thank you, everyone, for coming this morning. We are here for a gubernatorial appointment of Patricia Madsen. And I'll introduce you to the senators that are here and we might have one more coming yet. To my far left is Senator Gwen Howard from Omaha. Next to her is Arnie Stuthman; he's from Platte Center near Columbus. Next to him is Joel Johnson who is from the Kearney area. To my right here is Joan Warner in the red, committee clerk, about to be married the end of this month and will be leaving us so we are in training with Erin Mack who is my administrative assistant, and I will ask that maybe she move up for the short period. I'm Jim Jensen from Omaha serving as Chairman. To my right is Jeffery Santema who is legal counsel to the committee. And then next to him is Doug Cunningham from Wausa, Nebraska. With that, please, Patricia, come forward, tell us a little about yourself and your background. And if there's any questions then the committee may ask them of you.

CONFIRMATION HEARING OF
PATRICIA MADSEN TO THE
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
FUND BOARD

PATRICIA MADSEN: Thank you very much for agreeing to come this morning. It made it much easier for me. I am a native Nebraskan. I was raised in Boyd County. I graduated from high school and then attended the University of Nebraska. I majored in home economics education and after college, taught for two years in Iowa and then moved back to my home area. I moved to Stuart, Nebraska, and my husband and I joined our family's business, Wm. Krotter Co. We are a hardware and lumber dealer. We've been in business for 115 years. We're the fourth generation. So, our Nebraska

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roots are pretty deep. I have always been interested in children. I'm the oldest of five children in my family and I guess because I entered education, I have definitely had the welfare of children utmost in my mind at all times. I have taught, this is my twentieth year of teaching. I've taught in Iowa, in Nebraska, and presently am teaching at West Holt High School. I am the FCCLA advisor which stands for Family Career and Community Leaders of America. That's why we're in Lincoln. We're having our state convention at the Cornhusker and at Pershing Auditorium. And I guess I've been a community volunteer for many, many years and have done many things through FCCLA. I've been district advisor, have worked at the state level with the organization and have done everything I could to help my community. I guess my dad taught me that God, family, and community were the top three things, and my brothers and sisters and I have tried to carry on that tradition. What else do you need to know? (Laughter) That's in a nutshell (laugh).

JIM JENSEN: Any questions of Ms. Madsen? Yes, Senator Howard.

SENATOR HOWARD: Well, first let me say I appreciate you coming in. It's always good when we can talk to someone in person. You're wanting to be appointed to the Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board. Can you explain to me a little about the fund board? I've heard of it, but I'm not real familiar with it so if you can tell me something about it, that would help me.

PATRICIA MADSEN: As I understand it, it's an advisory committee appointed by the Governor. There was a resignation and so I have been asked to fill out a one-year term, and then possibly be appointed for my own term. And, basically, it's an advisory board that advises and works with Health and Human Services and gives advice to the Governor as far as child abuse issues.

SENATOR HOWARD: Apparently, there's some funding involved?

PATRICIA MADSEN: Possibly. I guess...I'm not that familiar. Actually, the way this all came about is that first I applied for a position on the Nebraska Commission for the Status of Women and then was contacted by Joan to

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see if I would be interested in an appointment because there were so many people that applied for that. And she said, since you're a teacher, we noticed that you're a teacher, we wondered if you would be interested. And so that's kind of how this all came about.

SENATOR HOWARD: Okay. Well, thank you.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you. Any other questions? Yes, Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Well, welcome, Pat, to Lincoln.

PATRICIA MADSEN: Thank you.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: I can just give a personal reference for Pat. I've gotten to know her and her husband the last few years. They are not from my legislative district, but I have gotten to know them. I've even spoken in Pat's classroom in Atkinson West Holt so they are involved...Pat and her husband are involved in many, many areas of the community and she does have children at heart so I'd just like to give my personal voice for you.

PATRICIA MADSEN: Thank you.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you. Any other questions, comments? Yes, Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Just one comment. You might get worked harder than you think (laughter).

PATRICIA MADSEN: That's okay (laugh).

SENATOR JOHNSON: That's okay.

PATRICIA MADSEN: I guess I'm to the point in my life where that's okay. My children have both left home. My youngest daughter is a freshman at the University of Nebraska. My son is in Oklahoma, presently going to paramedic school and is an EMT. And so, you know, I guess I'm not, you know, I'm in a different stage of life, and that's okay (laugh).

SENATOR JOHNSON: Well, the reason I say that is that this

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area might become a focus of this...

PATRICIA MADSEN: I understand that.

SENATOR JOHNSON: ...committee over the next couple of years.

PATRICIA MADSEN: I understand that.

SENATOR JOHNSON: So, glad to have you.

PATRICIA MADSEN: Thank you.

SENATOR JENSEN: All right, Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Pat, do you know where Platte Center is?

PATRICIA MADSEN: Yes, I do. I drive by there, in fact, sometimes on the way to Lincoln (laugh).

SENATOR STUTHMAN: I just wanted to inform you that, and I want to inform the whole group, that on Senator Ben Nelson's ad on that emergency unit coming over that hill on that dirt road and then through town, that's Platte Center (laughter). That is Platte Center.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Is that right?

SENATOR STUTHMAN: (inaudible)...

SENATOR JENSEN: Where are all the people? (Laughter) I didn't see many people.

PATRICIA MADSEN: I'm from a small town too (laugh).

SENATOR STUTHMAN: But there's only one pickup on Main Street as you see the...

SENATOR JOHNSON: And that's yours.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: ...emergency...no, it isn't. As the emergency unit is roaring through town. But that is Platte Center. So if you see that and you say, boy. You know, you

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see it and you say, boy, that is desolate. That is out in the boondocks. Really it (inaudible)...

PATRICIA MADSEN: We're farther (laugh).

SENATOR JOHNSON: They're going to have plenty of room for the statue in a few years anyhow (laughter).

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you (laughter).

SENATOR JENSEN: Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you. Thank you for coming and appearing before us. And that will conclude the hearing and if you could excuse yourself, we might take some action on this and then...

PATRICIA MADSEN: Thank you very much. It's nice meeting all of you.

SENATOR HOWARD: Nice to meet you.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Nice meeting you, Pat.

PATRICIA MADSEN: Good luck (laugh).

Chairperson

Committee Clerk