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Floor Debate  
February 29, 2016

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[LB19 LB53 LB221 LB295 LB311 LB328 LB371 LB378 LB447 LB447A LB676 LB700  
LB703 LB707 LB718 LB729 LB734 LB735 LB753 LB758 LB768 LB776 LB778 LB786  
LB798 LB807 LB811 LB840 LB859 LB864 LB871 LB894 LB897 LB898 LB921 LB929  
LB990 LB1035 LB1037 LB1059 LB1068 LR33 LR34 LR403 LR413 LR418 LR440 LR441  
LR442 LR456 LR457]

SPEAKER HADLEY PRESIDING

SPEAKER HADLEY: GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. WELCOME TO THE GEORGE W. NORRIS LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER FOR THE THIRTY-FOURTH DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION. OUR CHAPLAIN FOR TODAY IS SENATOR CRAWFORD. PLEASE RISE.

SENATOR CRAWFORD: (PRAYER OFFERED.)

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CRAWFORD. I CALL TO ORDER THE THIRTY-FOURTH DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ROLL CALL. MR. CLERK, PLEASE RECORD.

CLERK: I HAVE A QUORUM PRESENT, MR. PRESIDENT.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. ARE THERE ANY CORRECTIONS FOR THE JOURNAL?

CLERK: I HAVE NO CORRECTIONS.

SPEAKER HADLEY: ARE THERE ANY MESSAGES, REPORTS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS?

CLERK: YOUR COMMITTEE ON ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW REPORTS LB447, LB447A, AND LB897 TO SELECT FILE. YOUR COMMITTEE ON REVENUE CHAIRED BY SENATOR GLOOR REPORTS LB1037 TO GENERAL FILE. THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE, MR. PRESIDENT. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 743-744.) [LB447 LB447A LB897 LB1037]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. WHILE THE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION AND CAPABLE OF TRANSACTING BUSINESS, I PROPOSE TO SIGN AND DO HEREBY SIGN LR440, LR441, AND LR442. MR. CLERK, WE WILL MOVE TO FINAL READING. MEMBERS SHOULD RETURN TO THEIR SEATS IN PREPARATION FOR FINAL READING. MR. CLERK, THE FIRST BILL IS LB19. [LR440 LR441 LR442 LB19]

CLERK: (READ LB19 ON FINAL READING.) [LB19]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB19 PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB19]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 744-745.) 41 AYES, 0 NAYS, 4 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 4 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB19]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB19 PASSES. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB53. [LB19 LB53]

CLERK: (READ LB53 ON FINAL READING.) [LB53]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB53 PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE ALL THOSE VOTED THAT WISH? RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB53]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 745.) 44 AYES, 0 NAYS, 3 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 2 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB53]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB53 PASSES. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB221. [LB53 LB221]

CLERK: (READ LB221 ON FINAL READING.) [LB221]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB221 PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE ALL THOSE VOTED THAT WISH? RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB221]

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CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 746.) 46 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 2 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB221]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB221 PASSES. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB295. [LB221 LB295]

CLERK: (READ LB295 ON FINAL READING.) [LB295]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB295 PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE ALL VOTED THAT WISH? RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB295]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 747.) 46 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 2 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB295]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB295 PASSES. THE NEXT BILL IS LB311E. MR. CLERK, THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB295 LB311]

CLERK: 43 AYES, 1 NAY TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. [LB311]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB...MR. CLERK, WOULD YOU READ THE TITLE. [LB311]

CLERK: (READ TITLE OF LB311.) [LB311]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB311 PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB311]

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CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 748.) 45 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 2 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB311]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB311 PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB328. [LB311 LB328]

CLERK: (READ LB328 ON FINAL READING.) [LB328]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB328 PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE ALL VOTED THAT WISH? RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB328]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 748-749.) 46 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 2 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB328]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB328 PASSES. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB378. [LB328 LB378]

CLERK: (READ LB378 ON FINAL READING.) [LB378]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW OF RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB378 PASS? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE ALL VOTED THAT WISH? RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB378]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 749-750.) 47 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 1 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB378]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB378 PASSES. (VISITORS AND DOCTOR OF THE DAY INTRODUCED.) WHILE THE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION AND CAPABLE OF TRANSACTING BUSINESS, I PROCEED TO SIGN, AND WILL SIGN, LB19, LB53, LB221, LB295, LB311E, LB328, AND LB378. MR. CLERK, WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO THE CONSENT CALENDAR. [LB378 LB19 LB53 LB221 LB295 LB311 LB328]

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CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR HANSEN, LB676. I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL, SENATOR. [LB676]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB676]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB676 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB676]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. ALL OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB676]

CLERK: LB798, SENATOR, I HAVE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW AMENDMENTS PENDING. (ER165, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 589.) [LB798]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB798]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADOPT THE E&R AMENDMENTS TO LB798. [LB798]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION CARRIES. [LB798]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, SENATOR. [LB798]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB798]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB798 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB798]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. [LB798]

CLERK: LB778, SENATOR, I HAVE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW AMENDMENTS PENDING. (ER163, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 589.) [LB778]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB778]

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SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADOPT THE E&R AMENDMENTS TO LB778. [LB778]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. [LB778]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, SENATOR. [LB778]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB778]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB778 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB778]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB778]

CLERK: LB864, SENATOR, THERE ARE E&R AMENDMENTS PENDING. (ER164, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 589.) [LB864]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB864]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADOPT THE E&R AMENDMENTS TO LB864. [LB864]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. [LB864]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, SENATOR. [LB864]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB864]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB864 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB864]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB864]

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CLERK: LB700, SENATOR. THERE ARE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW AMENDMENTS. (ER167, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 602.) [LB700]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB700]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADOPT THE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW AMENDMENTS TO LB700. [LB700]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. [LB700]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, SENATOR. [LB700]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB700]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB700 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB700]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB700]

CLERK: LB703, SENATOR, I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL. [LB703]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB703]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB703 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB703]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB703]

CLERK: LB729, SENATOR, I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL. [LB729]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB729]

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SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADVANCE LB729 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB729]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED? MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB729]

CLERK: LB758, SENATOR, I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL. [LB758]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB758]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADVANCE LB758 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB758]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB758]

CLERK: LB840, SENATOR, I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL. [LB840]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB840]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB840 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB840]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB840]

CLERK: LB921, SENATOR. ONCE AGAIN, I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL. [LB921]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB921]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB921 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB921]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED? MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB921]



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CLERK: LB735, SENATOR, I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL. [LB735]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB735]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB735 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB735]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB735]

CLERK: LB811, SENATOR, THERE ARE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW AMENDMENTS. (ER166, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 604.) [LB811]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB811]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADOPT THE E&R AMENDMENTS TO LB811. [LB811]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. [LB811]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON LB811, SENATOR. [LB811]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN: [LB811]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB811 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB811]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB811]

CLERK: LB929, SENATOR, I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL. [LB929]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB929]

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SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB929 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB929]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB929]

CLERK: LB776, SENATOR, I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL. [LB776]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB776]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB776 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB776]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB776]

CLERK: LB807, SENATOR, I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL. [LB807]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB807]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB807 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB807]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB807]

CLERK: LB1035 DOES HAVE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW AMENDMENTS, SENATOR. (ER168, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 623.) [LB1035]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB1035]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADOPT THE E&R AMENDMENTS TO LB1035. [LB1035]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. [LB1035]

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CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, SENATOR. [LB1035]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB1035]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB1035 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB1035]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB1035]

CLERK: LB734, SENATOR, HAS NO AMENDMENTS. [LB734]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB734]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB734 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB734]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB734]

CLERK: LB718, SENATOR, I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL. [LB718]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB718]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB718 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB718]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. I'M SORRY, I COULD NOT HEAR. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB718]

CLERK: LB753, SENATOR, HAS NO AMENDMENTS. [LB753]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB753]

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SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB753 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB753]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION CARRIES. MR. CLERK. [LB753]

CLERK: LB786, SENATOR, I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS. [LB786]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB786]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB786 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB786]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. ALL OPPOSED SAY NAY. MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB786]

CLERK: LB859, SENATOR, I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL. [LB859]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB859]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB859 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB859]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK. [LB859]

CLERK: LB898, SENATOR, I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL. [LB898]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB898]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB898 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB898]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION PASSES. MR. CLERK, WE'LL RETURN TO THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS. [LB898]

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CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LR418 WAS A RESOLUTION ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED BY SENATOR HOWARD. IT ASKS THE LEGISLATURE TO CALL ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND MEET FORTHWITH AND REAPPOINT A SPECIAL COMMITTEE KNOWN AS THE ACCESSNEBRASKA OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. RESOLUTION WAS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR PURPOSES OF CONDUCTING A PUBLIC HEARING. THE BOARD HAS REPORTED THE LEGISLATION BACK TO THE FLOOR, MR. PRESIDENT, FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. [LR418]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HOWARD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION. [LR418]

SENATOR HOWARD: THANK YOU, SPEAKER HADLEY. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. TODAY, I'M HERE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT LR418, A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD CREATE THE ACCESSNEBRASKA OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. THE RESOLUTION WAS HEARD IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 8 AND IT WAS ADVANCED UNANIMOUSLY TO THE FULL LEGISLATURE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. LAST YEAR I WAS APPOINTED CHAIR OF THE LR33 ACCESSNEBRASKA SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE AND WAS PRECEDED IN THAT ROLE BY SENATOR ANNETTE DUBAS IN 2014 WITH THE LR400 COMMITTEE. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF MY COMMITTEE INCLUDED VICE CHAIR, SENATOR JOHN McCOLLISTER, SENATOR JONI CRAIGHEAD, SENATOR SUE CRAWFORD, SENATOR MATT HANSEN, SENATOR MERV RIEPE, AND SENATOR JOHN STINNER. ACCESSNEBRASKA, FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH IT, IS THE CALL CENTER SYSTEM THAT WE USE TO HELP ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS ENROLL IN OUR SOCIAL BENEFIT PROGRAMS. THOSE SOCIAL BENEFIT PROGRAMS RANGE FROM HEALTHCARE TO ENERGY ASSISTANCE TO FOOD STAMPS. THROUGH OUR WORK OVER THE INTERIM, WE TOURED EACH OF THE CUSTOMER SERVICE CALL CENTERS AND BOTH OF THE DOCUMENT IMAGING CENTERS KNOWN AS THE ANDI OFFICES. WE HELD A PUBLIC HEARING IN JULY AND MY STAFF ATTENDED REGULAR MEETINGS COMPRISED OF ACCESSNEBRASKA LEADERSHIP. THE OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE WAS ALSO...ALSO CONDUCTED A SURVEY OF EMPLOYEES. EACH OF THESE IS TOUCHED ON IN THE REPORT THAT WAS ISSUED IN JANUARY. WHAT WE FOUND IS THAT WHILE ACCESSNEBRASKA HAS FACED SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES IN OPERATIONS OVER THE RECENT YEARS--AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T REMEMBER, WE WERE LOOKING AT OVER 40-MINUTE-LONG CALL WAIT TIMES TWO YEARS AGO, AND TODAY WE'RE HAPPILY DOWN TO AROUND 5 MINUTES--NOTABLE GAINS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. IMPROVING FUNCTIONALITY OF THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN A PRIORITY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND CREDIT IS GIVEN ESPECIALLY TO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. RECOGNITION IS

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ALSO GIVEN TO THE LONG-TERM EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO ADVOCATE FOR A PROGRAM THAT THEY BELIEVE CAN HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THOSE NEEDING BENEFITS IN OUR STATE. THE LR33 COMMITTEE RELEASED THEIR FULL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON JANUARY 5, 2016. IN THIS REPORT, THE COMMITTEE MADE A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT OF FUNCTIONALITY, CUSTOMER SERVICE, AND DELIVERY OF BENEFITS BY ACCESSNEBRASKA. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO JUST GIVE A SPECIAL SHOUT-OUT TO SENATOR JOHN McCOLLISTER AND SENATOR JOHN STINNER. THEY REALLY LOOKED AT OUR ACCESSNEBRASKA CHALLENGES FROM A BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE AND SO A LOT OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS REALLY DO COME FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW. OUR RECOMMENDATIONS ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS. WE ASK THAT THEY CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON THE CROSS-SHARING OF DOCUMENTS AND PROPER TRAINING OF EMPLOYEES TO CONTINUE TO REDUCE CALL WAIT TIMES. SOME OF YOU MAY NOT KNOW THIS, BUT THERE WAS A LAWSUIT FILED BECAUSE IT WAS TAKING TOO LONG FOR US TO PROCESS FOOD STAMP BENEFITS. AND WHEN YOU...WHEN IT TAKES TOO LONG TO PROCESS FOOD STAMP BENEFITS, PEOPLE GO WITHOUT FOOD. AND SO THAT WAS WHY THE LAWSUIT WAS FILED. WE ALSO ASK THAT THEY CAN CREATE CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR COMPUTER AND CALLING SYSTEM MALFUNCTIONS. ON OUR LAST SITE VISIT IN DECEMBER, WE WERE INFORMED BY STAFF AT ACCESSNEBRASKA THAT TWO DAYS BEFORE THANKSGIVING THERE WAS A COMPUTER MALFUNCTION AND HUNDREDS OF NEBRASKANS DID NOT HAVE THEIR SNAP BENEFITS LOADED ON TO THEIR EBT CARDS. THAT MEANT THAT THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF NEBRASKANS WHO ON THANKSGIVING DID NOT HAVE FOOD. SO WE ASKED THEM TO CREATE SOME CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR WHEN THAT HAPPENS IN THE FUTURE. WE ALSO ASK THEM TO CONTINUE TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDING TO UPDATE TECHNOLOGY WITH A FOCUS ON PRIVACY AND SECURITY AS THEY LOOK AT TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS. WE WANTED THEM TO DEVELOP SUCCESSION PLANS, WHICH IS ALSO A BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT PLAN. WE WANTED THEM TO CONTINUE TO ADDRESS THE BACKLOG OF FRAUD COMPLAINTS AND DEVELOP BETTER MONITORING SYSTEMS. WHAT WE DISCOVERED IN OUR INVESTIGATION WAS THAT THERE A FRAUD E-MAIL INBOX WHERE IF AN ACCESSNEBRASKA EMPLOYEE SUSPECTED FRAUD, THEY WOULD SEND AN E-MAIL TO THIS INBOX, BUT NO ONE HAD CHECKED IT FOR MONTHS AND THERE WERE THOUSANDS OF E-MAILS IN THAT INBOX. ALONG WITH THE CONTINUED SURVEY OF ACCESSNEBRASKA EMPLOYEES, WE WANTED THEM TO DEVELOP A CUSTOMER SURVEY AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT PROCESS, AND WE WANTED TO MAINTAIN ONE MORE YEAR OF LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT FOR ACCESSNEBRASKA BECAUSE WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS, WE WANT TO MAKE

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SURE THAT THEY KNOW THAT WE'RE STILL WATCHING AND WE STILL WANT THOSE CALL WAIT TIMES TO GO DOWN AND THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS TO SPEED UP. THE INTENT OF THE REPORT WAS TO SHOW THE PROGRESS MADE AND THE CHALLENGES STILL PRESENTING THEMSELVES AT ACCESSNEBRASKA. WITH THE ABOVE STEPS BEING TAKEN, THE COMMITTEE FELT COMFORTABLE CHANGING THE FOCUS OF THE COMMITTEE AWAY FROM A SPECIAL INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE WHICH IS VERY RIGOROUS TO AN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. THE GOAL OF THAT OVERSIGHT WOULD BE TO SUPPORT AN ONGOING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE AND THE DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE THAT ACCESSNEBRASKA CONTINUES TO IMPROVE AND FUNCTION FOR THE LONG TERM, AND TO ENSURE THAT WE AVOID BOTH LAWSUITS, FEDERAL FINES, AND THE MANDATE THAT WE RETURN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR NOT DOING WHAT WE ARE SUPPOSED TO DO FOR SOME OF THESE ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS. I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT BEFORE WE SWITCHED TO A CALL CENTER SYSTEM, NEBRASKA WAS FIRST IN THE COUNTRY IN PROCESSING OF SNAP BENEFITS. WE WERE THE VERY BEST IN THE COUNTRY. PEOPLE WOULD COME HERE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WE WERE DOING. AND THEN WE SWITCHED TO A CALL CENTER SYSTEM AND WE WENT DOWN TO 51st. WE'RE NOW SITTING AT 32nd. I BELIEVE THAT WITH ONE MORE YEAR OF LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT, WE CAN SEE US GO FROM 32nd TO FIRST AGAIN. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF THIS IMPORTANT MATTER. I WOULD URGE YOU TO ADOPT THIS RESOLUTION, AND I WOULD BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR418 LR33]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HOWARD. SENATOR BOLZ, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LR418]

SENATOR BOLZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE IN SUPPORT OF THIS RESOLUTION AND I WANT TO APPLAUD THE WORK OF SENATOR HOWARD AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ACCESSNEBRASKA OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. PRIOR TO MY ELECTION, I WORKED IN THIS FIELD, AND IN 2011, WE HELD A SERIES OF TOWN HALL MEETINGS ALL ACROSS THE STATE. AND WE HEARD DIRECTLY FROM THE FOLKS WHO WERE UTILIZING ACCESSNEBRASKA ABOUT LONG CALL WAIT TIMES, CALL ABANDONMENT RATES, ERRONEOUS BENEFIT TERMINATIONS, LOST DOCUMENTS, INCORRECT INFORMATION, AND DIFFICULTY IN MEETING WITH THE DEPARTMENT FACE-TO-FACE. AND SPECIFICALLY FOR SOME OF THE POPULATIONS THAT I WORK WITH, WITH THE AGING TASK FORCE AND ON THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSION, THOSE THINGS ARE ESSENTIAL. THOSE PUBLIC BENEFITS MEAN QUALITY OF LIFE, THEY MEAN THAT KIDS CAN STAY IN THEIR HOMES, THEY MEAN THAT SENIORS STAY STABLE AND HEALTHY. AND SO

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THE WORK OF THIS COMMITTEE IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT AND I APPLAUD THEM FOR THE PROGRESS THAT THEY HAVE MADE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. AND I DO THINK THAT WE HAVE SEEN ACCESSNEBRASKA COME A LONG WAY. BUT, COLLEAGUES, THERE'S STILL A LOT OF WORK TO BE DONE AND I DON'T THINK THAT WE ARE QUITE WHERE WE NEED TO BE IN TERMS OF MAKING SURE THAT THE SYSTEM IS MOST EFFICIENT AND MOST EFFECTIVE. JUST AS RECENTLY AS 2014, IN FRONT OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, WE FOUND OUT THEN THAT AN ERROR IN THE WAY THAT WE WERE PURCHASING OUR PHONE SYSTEMS WAS COSTING US MORE THAN \$1,000 A DAY. SO, COLLEAGUES, I THINK THIS EFFICIENCY AND OVERSIGHT IS STILL ESSENTIAL. BUT WHAT MAKES ME MOST EXCITED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR AN ONGOING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE IS THE POTENTIAL WE HAVE TO MAKE OUR SYSTEM GREAT, TO MAKE IT TRULY ONE OF THE BEST IN THE NATION. THERE ARE SOME EXCITING IDEAS ABOUT MODERNIZATION, ABOUT DATA LOOPS SO THAT WE CAN BETTER IDENTIFY TRENDS AND PREVENT CHURNING IN THE SYSTEM WHICH MOVES PEOPLE ON AND OFF AND ENDS UP BEING MORE EXPENSIVE IN THE LONG RUN. THERE ARE OTHER STATES THAT HAVE CREATED EXPRESS BENEFIT SYSTEMS FOR THE SIMPLEST CASES TO MAKE SURE THAT THOSE CASES ARE PROCESSED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. WE'VE EXPERIMENTED ACROSS THE NATION WITH CONTINUOUS ELIGIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS LIKE SENIOR CITIZENS WHOSE SITUATIONS DON'T CHANGE. AND I THINK WE'VE SEEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEVERAGE NEW TECHNOLOGY AND NEW TOOLS IN OUR TOOLBOX TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR PUBLIC BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION WORKS AS WELL AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE. AND SO, I APPLAUD THE WORK OF THE ACCESSNEBRASKA OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AND I FULLY SUPPORT ITS CONTINUED WORK, COLLEAGUES, NOT JUST BECAUSE THERE'S WORK TO DO TO MAKE OUR SYSTEM MORE EFFECTIVE AND MORE EFFICIENT AND SERVE PEOPLE BETTER, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THIS COMMITTEE HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TAKE US TO THE NEXT LEVEL TO MAKE SURE THAT WE'RE IMPLEMENTING BEST PRACTICES AND TAKING THE BEST IDEAS FROM ALL ACROSS THE NATION AND USING THEM RIGHT HERE IN NEBRASKA. SO I ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCESSNEBRASKA OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AND, AGAIN, THANK EVERYONE, ALL OF THE STAKEHOLDERS WHO HAVE DONE THIS IMPORTANT WORK. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR418]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR BOLZ. SENATOR RIEPE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LR418]



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SENATOR RIEPE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER. I STAND IN OPPOSITION OF LR418 REGARDING CONTINUED OVERSIGHT BY A SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSNEBRASKA. I WAS A MEMBER OF THE LR33 SPECIAL INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE. YOU MAY REMEMBER, I SENT A LETTER TO THE BODY ON JANUARY 6, 2016, THE DATE THE REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE, EXPRESSING MY CONCERNS FOR THE ACCESSNEBRASKA SPECIAL INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE REPORT, AND WHY I DO NOT SUPPORT THE FINAL REPORT. AS A MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE AND A MEMBER OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, I BELIEVE WE HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE WHERE WE ARE TODAY AND NOT WALLOW IN PAST FAILURES. THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES HAS DONE A COMMENDABLE JOB AT MEETING OR EXCEEDING MOST OF THE FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS. I DO NOT FEEL THE RECOMMENDATIONS SET OUT IN THE REPORT TRULY RECOGNIZE THE IMPROVEMENTS MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT. IN FACT, A HANDOUT HAS OR WILL BE PROVIDED TO YOU WITH THE METRICS FROM JANUARY 2016, SO YOU MAY SEE HOW THE DEPARTMENT HAS GREATLY IMPROVED. I FEEL OVERSIGHT OF ACCESSNEBRASKA IS IMPORTANT, BUT NOT AT THE CRISIS INVESTIGATIVE LEVEL REQUIRED BY A SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE. OVERSIGHT MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, ITS FUNDAMENTAL ROLE. ADDITIONALLY, THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE WAS TASKED AT REPORTING ITS FINDINGS TO THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE BY DECEMBER 15, 2015. AS A MEMBER OF BOTH COMMITTEES, THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE HAS NOT BRIEFED THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AS OF TODAY. I TAKE EXCEPTION TO THE LANGUAGE OF THE LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION AS IS...DOES NOT ACCURATELY REFLECT MY DISSENT TO THE REPORT AND FINDINGS. I ALSO TAKE EXCEPTION TO THE COMMITTEE'S PROGRESS AND PROCEDURES THROUGHOUT THE INVESTIGATION AND I DO NOT BELIEVE THE CONTINUATION OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE IS MERITED. I DO WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE AGAIN THE WORK AND THE DEDICATION THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ITS LEADERSHIP, AND THAT OF THE GOVERNOR. I WILL VOTE RED FOR LR418. THANK YOU, SIR. [LR418 LR33]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR RIEPE. SENATOR McCOLLISTER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LR418]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: GOOD MORNING, MR. SPEAKER, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I RISE IN SUPPORT OF LR418. I SERVED AS VICE CHAIR OF THAT ACCESSNEBRASKA COMMITTEE, AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT SENATOR HOWARD'S

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LEADERSHIP AND HER TENACIOUS NATURE MADE THIS PROGRAM WORK. SHE DID A GOOD JOB, AND WITH GREAT DIFFICULTIES, BECAUSE WE HAD SCHEDULING ISSUES THAT YOU CANNOT BELIEVE. SHE DID A VERY GOOD JOB. ACCESSNEBRASKA IS A STAR-CROSSED PROGRAM BUT WE'VE SEEN STEADY IMPROVEMENT, TO BE SURE. ARE WE READY TO COMPLETELY RELEASE ACCESSNEBRASKA FROM STUDY? NO WAY. WE SHOULD NOT DO THAT. WE ARE CHANGING THE FUNCTION OF OUR...OF THE COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT. IT'S FROM INVESTIGATIVE TO OVERSIGHT AND THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE. WE HAVE FRAUD ISSUES TO CONTINUE TO EXAMINE AND OTHER ISSUES. SO IT'S...IT'S CERTAINLY NOT...WE SHOULD CERTAINLY NOT RELEASE THE PROGRAM TO THE OVERSIGHT OF THE HHS COMMITTEE. SO WITH THAT, I RISE IN SUPPORT AND I WOULD HOPE YOU VOTE GREEN ON LR418. [LR418]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOLLISTER. SENATOR COOK, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LR418]

SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I RISE IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SENATOR HOWARD'S LR418, AND WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND HER AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THEIR COMMITMENT OF TIME AND RESEARCH INTO THIS ONGOING ISSUE. EARLIER IN MY CAREER HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE, I INTRODUCED LEGISLATION RELATED TO ACCESSNEBRASKA. THIS WAS BACK IN THE DAYS WHEN WE HAD 45-MINUTE WAIT TIMES, PEOPLE'S PHONES RUNNING OUT OF MINUTES, MULTIPLE INQUIRIES, CONSTITUENT INQUIRIES INTO MY OFFICE EVERY WEEK ASKING FOR HELP WITH NAVIGATING THE SYSTEM. MANY OF YOU WERE NOT AROUND WHEN THE DECISION WAS MADE TO SWITCH TO...FROM HAVING HUMAN BEINGS DO THE CASEWORK TO GOING TO THE SYSTEM OF A CALL CENTER, BUT THERE WASN'T MUCH NOTICE GIVEN TO THE ACTUAL PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO ACCESS THE SYSTEM, BENEFITS TO WHICH THEY ARE WELL AND OVERLY ENTITLED. THIS WAS A HARDSHIP. I STILL RECEIVE ROUTINE INQUIRIES FROM CONSTITUENTS ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THEY'RE ABLE TO GET THEIR BENEFITS. THESE ARE BUSY, WORKING PEOPLE IN MANY CASES. THEY DON'T HAVE TIME TO SIT ON THE COMPUTER OR SIT ON THE TELEPHONE. I WOULD CONCUR THAT THE SYSTEM HAS IMPROVED SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE AND IMPROVED RECENTLY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF COURTNEY PHILLIPS AS CEO OF HHS. I WOULD AGREE WITH THAT STATEMENT. I DO NOT AGREE WITH THE STATEMENT THAT WE DO NOT NEED TO HAVE THIS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED. THERE ARE STILL PROBLEMS. IT IS ONE OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS LEGISLATORS TO PROVIDE OVERSIGHT TO THE AGENCIES. IT IS AN IMPORTANT CONSTITUENT SERVICE, AND ONCE AGAIN, I RISE

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IN SUPPORT OF LR418 IN ITS CURRENT FORM. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR418]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR COOK. SENATOR KRIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LR418]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. GOOD MORNING, NEBRASKA. I RISE IN STRONG SUPPORT OF LR418. I'LL REMIND YOU TO LOOK BACK AT THE COMMITTEE STATEMENT AS IT CAME OUT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF YOUR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. IT WAS A 9-0 VOTE. THERE WERE NO OPPONENTS AND THERE WAS NO NEUTRAL TESTIMONY AS IT CAME OUT. ON MY DESK HERE, I HAVE HARD COPY, ALTHOUGH IT'S AVAILABLE TO YOU ON-LINE, LR400 IN 2014, LR33 IN 2015, AND SEE THE WONDERFUL MARKED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN ACCESSNEBRASKA. IT DIDN'T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT. I BELIEVE THAT WHEN WE APPLY AN OVERSIGHT FUNCTION, WE ALSO ARE MORE ATTUNED TO WHAT NEEDS TO BE SPENT AND WHAT FUNCTIONS ARE GOING ON THAT NEED TO BE TWEAKED. I WOULD REMIND THIS BODY, THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR A WHILE, THAT ACCESSNEBRASKA MIGHT HAVE BEEN ON ITS WAY TO SUCCESS, BUT THE DEPARTMENT AT SOME POINT DIVIDED IT IN HALF IN TERMS OF SUBJECT MATTER WHICH TOOK US BACK A FEW YEARS IN TERMS OF MOVING FORWARD, AND WE HAD TO COME UP IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO SUPPORT A DIFFERENT TRACK GOING FORWARD. I'D ALSO REMIND THIS BODY THAT IN SENATOR RIEPE'S OPENING, HE CALLED THIS, AGAIN, A LEGISLATIVE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE. THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS. WE HAVE RATCHETED DOWN IN TERMS OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATION GOING ON IN 2014 AND 2015. THESE WERE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEES BECAUSE WE HAD TO PAY ATTENTION TO IT. THIS IS A FOLLOW-THROUGH, AND I THINK THE LAST YEAR POTENTIALLY OF A FOLLOW-THROUGH TO MAKE SURE THAT WE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE OVERSIGHT THAT'S REQUIRED. SENATOR CAMPBELL COULDN'T BE WITH US THIS MORNING. SHE HAD AN OBLIGATION AND SHE WILL BE BACK OBVIOUSLY AS SOON AS SHE'S DONE WITH HER OBLIGATION, BUT I CAN SPEAK ON HER BEHALF OF IT, AS WELL, AS THE CHAIR OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND BE VERY BOLD IN SAYING THAT SHE SUPPORTS THIS EFFORT GOING FORWARD. SENATOR CAMPBELL AND I HAVE BEEN...AND SENATOR GLOOR AND PROBABLY SOME OF THE...AND SENATOR COOK, ACTUALLY, SOME OF THE ORIGINAL FOLKS WHO WATCHED THE PRIVATIZATION EFFORT ACROSS THE STATE FAIL AND FOUND OURSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF A LOT OF THESE ISSUES IN THE LAST FEW YEARS. I THANK ALL OF THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE AND I THANK SENATOR HOWARD AND HER COMMITTEE FOR THEIR SERVICE. I ALSO HAVE A STACK OF LETTERS HERE

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FROM SENATOR RIEPE AND I RESPECT THE FACT THAT HE HAS WRITTEN SENATOR HOWARD AND DOCUMENTED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT HE DOES NOT APPROVE OF THE PROCESS MOVING FORWARD. BUT I'LL REMIND YOU THAT THE COMMITTEE STATEMENT HAD NO OPPONENTS DURING COMMITTEE HEARING, AND NO NEUTRAL TESTIMONY, AND I ASK YOU FOR A STRONG RIGHT INDEX FINGER TO GREEN ON LR418. THANK YOU. [LR418 LR33]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR KRIST. SENATOR CRAWFORD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LR418]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE IN SUPPORT OF LR418, AND I WOULD ECHO THE THANKS TO SENATOR HOWARD AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND OTHER PEOPLE IN THIS BODY WHO HAVE WORKED HARD ON ACCESSNEBRASKA OVER THE YEARS, AND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ESPECIALLY FOR RECENT IMPROVEMENTS IN ACCESSNEBRASKA. I JUST WANTED TO LET MY COLLEAGUES KNOW AND INDICATE FOR THE RECORD THAT WE HAD A VERY INTENTIONAL DISCUSSION ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT WE SHOULD CONTINUE WITH AN INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE, CONTINUE WITH AN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, OR SAY, NOW IT'S TIME FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO TAKE OVER OF OVERSIGHT. AND SO THAT WAS A VERY INTENTIONAL DISCUSSION THAT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAD. AND WE TALKED ABOUT PROS AND CONS OF GOING IN EACH OF THOSE THREE DIRECTIONS. AND WHAT YOU HAVE BEFORE YOU, LR418, WAS THE RESULT OF THAT DISCUSSION. AND AFTER DISCUSSING THE PROS AND CONS OF EACH OF THOSE THREE DIRECTIONS, IT WAS THE SENSE OF THE COMMITTEE THAT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE WAS THE APPROPRIATE STEP TO TAKE. IT ALLOWS SENATORS WHO AREN'T ON THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE TO BE A PART OF LEARNING ABOUT ACCESSNEBRASKA AND HELPING TO PROVIDE OVERSIGHT FOR ACCESSNEBRASKA AND ALLOWS US TO CONTINUE TO HAVE STAFF SUPPORT IN MAKING SURE THAT WE HAVE SPECIFICALLY TARGETED OVERSIGHT FOR ACCESSNEBRASKA. SO, I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU KNEW THAT AND THAT WAS ON THE RECORD THAT THIS WAS A VERY INTENTIONAL DISCUSSION BY THE COMMITTEE. WE DID NOT JUST DECIDE, LET'S JUST KEEP...KEEP THIS COMMITTEE ALIVE. WE REALLY DID DELIBERATE ON THE ADVANTAGES OF DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. AND AGAIN WE DECIDED NOT TO KEEP IT AT THE INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE LEVEL, BUT TO CONTINUE A SPECIAL ATTENTION IN TERMS OF LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT, AND FELT THIS WAS THE APPROPRIATE PATH FOR NEXT YEAR IS TO MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE THIS SPECIAL COMMITTEE THAT'S STILL GIVING DEDICATED ATTENTION AND THAT

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INCLUDES LIKELY MEMBERS OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, BUT INCLUDES MEMBERS OF OTHER COMMITTEES AS WELL, AND THAT HAS STAFF AND APPROPRIATE ATTENTION TO MAKE SURE WE'RE WATCHING THE CONTINUED EFFORTS ON ACCESSNEBRASKA. SO I URGE YOUR GREEN VOTE ON LR418. THANK YOU. [LR418]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CRAWFORD. SENATOR HANSEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LR418]

SENATOR HANSEN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WON'T BELABOR THE POINT BECAUSE WE'VE HAD A LOT OF SUPPORT, BUT I RISE IN SUPPORT OF LR418. BUT I JUST WANTED TO SAY AS A MEMBER WHO SERVED ON THE PAST ACCESSNEBRASKA COMMITTEE THIS SUMMER, THIS INTERIM, I RISE IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS RESOLUTION, AND IN THANKS OF SENATOR HOWARD AND HER LEADERSHIP ON THIS ISSUE. AND I DID...AND FURTHER WANTED TO MAKE SURE I'D THANKED THE STAFF THAT WORKED ON ACCESSNEBRASKA OVER THE SUMMER. THERE WERE A LOT OF MOVING PARTS AND A LOT OF NEW FACES ON THE ACCESSNEBRASKA COMMITTEE. AND PEOPLE LIKE TIMOREE KLINGLER HAVE REALLY HELPED US UNDERSTAND AND FOCUS ON THE ISSUES. WITH THAT, I WOULD ASK MY COLLEAGUES TO VOTE GREEN ON LR418. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR418]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HANSEN. SENATOR FRIESEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LR418]

SENATOR FRIESEN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WAS WONDERING IF SENATOR CRAWFORD WOULD YIELD TO A QUESTION. [LR418]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR CRAWFORD, WILL YOU YIELD? [LR418]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: YES. [LR418]

SENATOR FRIESEN: SEEING AS YOU WERE ON THE SUBCOMMITTEE EARLIER THAT DID THE STUDY, I JUST HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS AS TO...IN REGARD TO HOW THAT PROCESS WORKED AND IF THERE'S A SUNSET ON THIS SPECIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE OR DOES IT CONTINUE ON FOREVER? [LR418]

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SENATOR CRAWFORD: SO THIS RESOLUTION IS TO ALLOW IT TO CONTINUE ANOTHER YEAR. [LR418]

SENATOR FRIESEN: SO IT WOULD JUST GO ONE MORE YEAR? [LR418]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THAT'S MY UNDERSTANDING, YES. [LR418]

SENATOR FRIESEN: SO BEING A SENIOR SENATOR TO A FRESHMAN SENATOR, YOU KNOW, THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, WHAT OVERSIGHT DO THEY PROVIDE OVER SOME OF THESE OPERATIONS JUST IN GENERAL? WOULD THEY BE LOOKING AT ALL ASPECTS OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ALL THE TIME, OR DO WE ONLY TARGET CERTAIN AREAS WHEN THEY NEED SPECIAL ATTENTION? [LR418]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU FOR THAT QUESTION. SO, WHAT THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE HAS DONE IS ASK THE DIFFERENT DIRECTORS OF THE DIFFERENT DIVISIONS OF HHS TO COME IN AND GIVE A BRIEFING TO US. AND IN THAT BRIEFING, THEY GIVE US UPDATES OF ALL THE MANY THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING AND THAT GIVES US A CHANCE TO ASK QUESTIONS. IT'S ALSO THE CASE THAT WHEN WE HEAR CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS LIKE WE HAD ON ACCESSNEBRASKA, IT'S OFTEN THE CASE THAT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE WILL HAVE A MEETING WITH SOMEONE FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THOSE CONCERNS. SO, IN TERMS OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, THEN WE ARE TRYING TO WATCH FOR CONCERNS IN ALL OF THOSE PROGRAMS THAT ARE HAPPENING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. BUT AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THE VAST NUMBER OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS IN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES MEANS THAT THAT OVERSIGHT PROCESS DOESN'T NECESSARILY ALLOW US TO TARGET A SPECIFIC PROGRAM THAT MIGHT NEED SPECIAL ATTENTION, WHICH IS WHERE SOMETHING LIKE LR418 COMES INTO PLAY. [LR418]

SENATOR FRIESEN: OKAY. THANK YOU, SENATOR CRAWFORD. [LR418]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: YOU'RE WELCOME. THANK YOU. [LR418]

SENATOR FRIESEN: YOU KNOW, I...I'LL LISTEN TO IF THERE'S ANY MORE DEBATE, BUT I LOOK AT THIS AS, YOU KNOW, AS BEING ON THE TRANSPORTATION

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COMMITTEE, DO WE START FOCUSING IN ON DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS, OR DO WE LET MANAGEMENT RUN THE PROGRAM? ONCE A PROBLEM IS HIGHLIGHTED, AND I THINK THEY'VE DONE A REALLY GOOD JOB OF THAT, EVERYBODY IS WELL AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS. I'M JUST...I GUESS I SPEAK THAT MAYBE WE SHOULD BE A LITTLE CAUTIOUS IN FORMING TOO MANY COMMITTEES. ONCE A PROGRAM HAS BEEN HIGHLIGHTED, I THINK THOSE PROBLEMS WILL BE ADDRESSED AND HOPEFULLY YOU WOULD DEPEND ON THAT DIRECTOR OF THAT DEPARTMENT TO FOLLOW THROUGH AND MAKE SURE THAT THEY GET THE PROGRAM UP AND RUNNING TO WHERE WE ALL EXPECT IT TO BE. SO, WITH THAT, I'LL CONTINUE TO LISTEN TO DEBATE. I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'LL BE ON THIS BILL, BUT IT IS SOMETHING THAT I THINK EVERYBODY NEEDS TO KEEP IN MIND. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR418]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR FRIESEN. SENATOR HOWARD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LR418]

SENATOR HOWARD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WANTED TO MAKE A FEW POINTS. SENATOR FRIESEN ASKED ABOUT THE PROCESS THAT WE USE. BECAUSE THERE WAS A SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE IN 2014, WE MIRRORED THEIR PROCESS IN 2015 SO THAT WE COULD HAVE A CLEAR COMPARISON. ONE OF THE LUXURIES OF A SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE THAT A REGULAR COMMITTEE IN THE LEGISLATURE MAYBE DOESN'T HAVE, IS THAT WE WERE ABLE TO CONDUCT SITE VISITS. WE WENT ACROSS THE STATE. I THANK SENATOR STINNER, AGAIN, FOR INTRODUCING ME TO THE EMPORIUM IN SCOTTSBLUFF WHERE WE VISITED A CALL CENTER. THERE'S A LOCAL OFFICE IN GERING. WE ALSO VISITED CALL CENTERS IN LEXINGTON, FREMONT, OMAHA, AND LINCOLN. OMAHA AND LINCOLN HAVE THE DOCUMENT IMAGING CENTERS. AND THAT'S SOMETHING THAT MAYBE A STANDING COMMITTEE DOESN'T HAVE THE TIME TO DO, BUT A SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE WILL CERTAINLY TAKE THE ENERGY TO INVESTIGATE. I ALSO WANT TO POINT OUT THAT THIS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AND THE STEP DOWN FROM A SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE WAS AN INTENTIONAL DECISION. WE DIDN'T FEEL AS THOUGH AN INVESTIGATIONAL OVERSIGHT WAS NECESSARY. BUT STEPPING BACK SO THAT THEY STILL KNEW THAT WE WERE ENGAGED AND INTERESTED IN THE SOLUTIONS THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS WORKING ON TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES WITHIN ACCESSNEBRASKA WAS STILL VERY IMPORTANT, PREDOMINANTLY BECAUSE FROM AN APPROPRIATIONS PERSPECTIVE WE'RE PAYING FEDERAL FINES BECAUSE OUR ACCESSNEBRASKA SYSTEM IS NOT FUNCTIONING THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO. AND THAT IS ONE POINT I WANTED TO MAKE. ONE OF THE BLESSINGS OF A COMMITTEE LIKE THIS IS THAT IT'S NOT JUST MEMBERS OF THE

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE. WE TEND TO GET VERY SILOED: I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT ACCESS, RIGHT? BUT MEMBERS OF TRANSPORTATION OR NATURAL RESOURCES MAY NOT KNOW AS MUCH ABOUT ACCESSNEBRASKA, BUT IT'S STILL IMPACTING THEIR CONSTITUENTS. IT'S STILL IMPACTING THEIR CONSTITUENTS WHEN THEY MAKE A PHONE CALL AND NO ONE PICKS UP FOR 15 MINUTES. SO, HAVING THE BLESSING OF OTHER MEMBERS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES BRINGS A NEW PERSPECTIVE. AND SO I THINK LR418 WILL REALLY CONTINUE THAT TYPE OF COLLABORATION AMONG SENATORS FROM DIFFERENT COMMITTEES LOOKING AT ONE PROBLEM AREA. AND SO I ALSO WANT TO EMPHASIZE, THIS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE IS ONLY FOR ONE YEAR, SO WE'RE NOT ASKING TO GO BEYOND THAT. AND WITH THAT, THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR418]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HOWARD. SENATOR KUEHN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LR418]

SENATOR KUEHN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES, AND THANK YOU TO SENATOR HOWARD FOR ALL OF HER TIRELESS WORK ON THE ACCESSNEBRASKA ISSUE AND ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE. I DID JUST WANT TO REINFORCE THAT I THINK ONE OF THE GOOD THINGS THAT HAS...WE HAVE PROVIDED FOR US THIS MORNING IS SOME REALLY RELIABLE METRICS. AS WE LOOK AT TALKING ABOUT HOW WE ADDRESS SOME OF THE CHALLENGES THAT WE FACE AND THE OPERATIONS OF STATE GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY IN PROGRAMS WHERE THE EMPHASIS IS PROVIDING SERVICES AND CARE TO OUR MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS, THAT AN EMPHASIS ON GOOD QUALITY METRICS, GOOD QUALITY EVIDENCE, AND GOOD QUALITY DATA IS IMPERATIVE TO THAT PROCESS. SO, CERTAINLY, NOW THAT WE ARE DOING A BETTER JOB OF TRACKING THAT INFORMATION AND TRACKING THAT DATA, WE AS POLICYMAKERS ARE BETTER ABLE TO MAKE DECISIONS AS WELL AS TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENTS THAT ARE THERE. SO I WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT THE GREAT STRIDES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN ACCESSNEBRASKA. I THINK SENATOR HOWARD'S COMMENTS THAT STEPPING THIS DOWN FROM A SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE TO AN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ARE JUSTIFIED AND WARRANTED. AND AS WE CONTINUE TO LOOK FORWARD TO THE CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESSNEBRASKA, WE CONTINUE TO OBTAIN THAT DATA, AND FOLLOW BEST PRACTICES TO ENSURE THAT THE SERVICES ARE BEING PROVIDED IN A COST-EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MANNER AS WELL AS THAT THE INDIVIDUALS WHO NEED THOSE SERVICES HAVE TIMELY AND RESPONSIBLE ACCESS TO THOSE SERVICES. SO I APPRECIATE THE EMPHASIS ON THE DATA AND THE EVIDENCE. IT'S GOING TO BE...CONTINUE



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TO BE SOMETHING I'M GOING TO BRING FORWARD AND KEEP AT THE FOREFRONT OF THIS BODY TO MAKE EVIDENCE-BASED DECISIONS AND USE GOOD DATA, AND THIS CERTAINLY SHOWS THAT WE HAVE TACKLED AN ISSUE, TACKLED A PROBLEM, AND WE'RE DOING IT WITH THOSE GOOD METRICS. SO I THANK THE EFFORTS OF THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AND LOOK FORWARD TO MORE GREAT DATA REGARDING ACCESSNEBRASKA. [LR418]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR KUEHN. SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR HOWARD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON LR418. [LR418]

SENATOR HOWARD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AGAIN, I JUST WANT TO EMPHASIZE HOW MUCH WORK AND HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE MY FELLOW COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON THE ACCESSNEBRASKA SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE. LR418 IS A PRODUCT OF THEIR WORK AND THEIR INTERIM AND I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE IT. THIS RESOLUTION STEPS DOWN OUR SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE TO AN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSNEBRASKA AND MY OPTIMISTIC SELF BELIEVES THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEE IMPROVEMENT IN ACCESSNEBRASKA WITH ONE MORE YEAR OF LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT. SO WITH THAT, I WOULD URGE YOUR GREEN VOTE ON LR418. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR418]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HOWARD. YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING ON LR418. THE QUESTION FOR THE BODY IS THE ADOPTION OF LR418. ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. THERE'S BEEN A REQUEST FOR A CALL OF THE HOUSE. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LR418]

CLERK: 28 AYES, 0 NAYS TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. [LR418]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL PLEASE LEAVE THE FLOOR. ALL SENATORS PLEASE RETURN TO THE FLOOR. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS MORFELD, SCHNOOR, SENATOR RIEPE, IF YOU WOULD CHECK IN. SENATOR BURKE HARR, SENATOR COASH, SENATOR KOLTERMAN, SENATOR DAVIS, SENATOR SCHILZ, SENATOR LARSON, SENATOR KINTNER, SENATOR CHAMBERS, SENATOR GARRETT, SENATOR GROENE, THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. WE'LL ACCEPT CALL-IN VOTES. [LR418]

CLERK: SENATOR CHAMBERS VOTING YES. THANK YOU. SENATOR COASH VOTING YES. SENATOR LARSON VOTING YES. SENATOR BRASCH VOTING NO.

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SENATOR McCOY VOTING NO. SENATOR GLOOR VOTING YES. SENATOR SCHEER VOTING YES. [LR418]

SPEAKER HADLEY: RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LR418]

CLERK: 26 AYES, 7 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION. [LR418]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LR418 IS ADOPTED. I RAISE THE CALL. MR. CLERK, THE NEXT RESOLUTION. [LR418]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LR413 WAS INTRODUCED BY SENATOR WATERMEIER. IT'S A RESOLUTION ASKING THAT A TASK FORCE OF BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH BE CREATED. UPON ITS INTRODUCTION IT WAS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR PURPOSES OF CONDUCTING A PUBLIC HEARING. THE RESOLUTION WAS REPORTED BACK TO THE FLOOR FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR413]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR WATERMEIER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON LR413. [LR413]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BODY. LR413 IS THE RESULT OF A 2015 PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM WHICH SURVEYED THE SIX BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REGIONS TO IDENTIFY SERVICE GAPS. THE REPORT IDENTIFIED SEVERAL LIKELY GAPS IN SERVICES ACROSS THE STATE AND THE MAIN RECOMMENDATION OF THE AUDIT WAS THAT A LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE BE ESTABLISHED TO MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, THE DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN CONDUCTING A STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT, AND IN DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC PLAN. TO THAT END, LR413 ESTABLISHES THE TASK FORCE ON BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH. IN ADDITION TO MONITORING THE DEPARTMENT'S PROGRESS IN CONDUCTING THE NEEDS AND ASSESSMENT IN DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC PLAN, THE TASK FORCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR STUDYING THE FOLLOWING ISSUES: ONE, THE ADEQUACY AND NEEDS OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE REGIONS; TWO, THE ADEQUACY AND NEEDS OF THE LINCOLN REGIONAL CENTER TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS UNDER A MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENT; AND, THIRDLY, THE ADEQUACY AND NEEDS OF JAILS, YOUTH REHABILITATION AND TREATMENT CENTERS, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IN PROVIDING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

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SERVICES FOR THE INDIVIDUALS EXITING THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND I'D BE GLAD TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS. I BROUGHT THIS ON BEHALF OF THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND OBVIOUSLY SENATOR BOLZ AND I HAD HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THIS, BUT I WOULD BE GLAD TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS IF YOU NEED. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR413]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR BOLZ, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LR413]

SENATOR BOLZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I JUST RISE IN SUPPORT OF THIS RESOLUTION AND APPLAUD THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT STAFF AND THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE ON THEIR GOOD WORK WITH A VERY COMPLEX ISSUE. JUST A QUICK BIT OF HISTORY HERE, LB1083 CHANGED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN NEBRASKA DRAMATICALLY IN 2004. IT MOVED US FROM INSTITUTIONAL CARE TO COMMUNITY-BASED CARE. AND THAT VISION IS A REALLY GOOD VISION. IT REPRESENTS THE BEST OF GOVERNMENT VALUES, INCLUDING THE LOWEST LEVEL OF TREATMENT AND COST EFFICIENCY. BUT WE STILL HAVE SOME WORK TO DO IN IMPLEMENTING THE TRUE VISION ESTABLISHED BY THAT PIECE OF LEGISLATION MORE THAN 12 YEARS AGO. AND SENATOR WATERMEIER IS RIGHT. THERE ARE STILL SIGNIFICANT GAPS IN OUR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEMS AND SERVICES. LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT ONE SPECIFICALLY, JUST AS AN EXAMPLE, ABOUT WHY THIS TYPE OF TASK FORCE IS NECESSARY AND THE COMPLEXITY OF THE POLICY ISSUES. I HAD SOME INTEREST IN THE WAITING LIST AT THE LINCOLN REGIONAL CENTER, AND THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HAS ACTUALLY TAKEN SOME ACTION IN OUR PRELIMINARY BUDGET TO TRY TO ADDRESS THAT ISSUE. BUT WE HAVE SOME WAITING LISTS AT THE LINCOLN REGIONAL CENTER. BUT AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE VERY HIGH-NEEDS INDIVIDUALS WHO CAN'T GET INTO RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT BECAUSE THERE ARE WAITING LISTS AND DO NOT QUALIFY FOR HOSPITAL-LEVEL TREATMENT BECAUSE THEIR BEHAVIORS ARE AGGRESSIVE AND VIOLENT AND IT'S NOT AN APPROPRIATE PLACE FOR CARE. SO THAT'S THE LEVEL OF INDIVIDUALS THAT SOMETIMES RUN INTO CHALLENGES AND ROADBLOCKS IN OUR SYSTEM AND NEED TO BE ADDRESSED WITH SOME POLICY SOLUTIONS AND CHANGES. I ALSO THINK WHEN WE PUT THIS IN THE CONTEXT OF OTHER ISSUES AND STRATEGIES THAT ARE BEING DEVELOPED ON THIS FLOOR, WE CAN SEE HOW CHANGES IN OUR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM CAN IMPROVE THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSION AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES BY STABILIZING FAMILY AND MAKING SURE THAT PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO CARE. WE CAN SEE HOW A TASK FORCE LIKE THIS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE VISION OF THE LR34 COMMITTEE, THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MAKING SURE THAT PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO SERVICES AS THEY

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EXIT THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM, OR IN A BETTER CASE SCENARIO, IF THEY'RE ABLE TO ACCESS FIRST EPISODE PSYCHOSIS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE TREATMENT AND NOT ENGAGE WITH THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM AT ALL. SO I DON'T WANT TO BELABOR THE POINT. I THINK THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. BUT I APPLAUD THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR BRINGING THIS LR FORWARD AND I THINK THE TASK FORCE WILL REALLY CONTRIBUTE TO POLICY CHANGE IN THIS AREA THAT WILL BOTH SERVE THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA AND CREATE COST AND SYSTEMS EFFICIENCIES. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR413 LR34]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR BOLZ. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LR413]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I RISE IN SUPPORT OF LR413 INTRODUCED BY SENATOR WATERMEIER, AND AS YOU'VE HEARD, I WON'T REPEAT SOME OF THE GREAT TESTIMONY YOU HEARD FROM SENATOR WATERMEIER AND SENATOR BOLZ. THIS ISSUE REALLY CAME, I THINK, AT A LOT OF OUR FOREFRONT BACK IN 2014 IN LIGHT OF THE LR424 SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND WHAT WE SAW IN REGARDS TO A LACK OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, PRIMARILY IN OUR DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, BUT HOW THOSE...HOW THAT DEFICIENCY OF SERVICES TRANSLATED MORE INTO COUNTY JAILS AS WELL AS STARTED TO TRANSLATE INTO OUR COMMUNITY SETTINGS AS WELL. AND IT'S BEEN AN ITEM THAT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HAS STRUGGLED WITH OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS IN REGARDS TO IDENTIFYING WHAT SEEMS TO BE SOME OF THE HURDLES, I WOULD SAY, PERHAPS, IN THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM AS IT RELATES TO OUR REGIONAL SYSTEM, AND TO SOME EXTENT WHY WE DON'T SEE ALL OF THE FUNDING THAT GETS APPROPRIATED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS GET OUT TO COMMUNITY PROVIDERS WHEN WE HEAR SUCH A LACK OF PROGRAMMING IN OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. SO WITH THAT BEING SAID, I THINK IT SPEAKS THE VOLUMES OF LEADERSHIP FROM SENATOR WATERMEIER, AS THE CHAIR OF THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE, TAKING A RECOMMENDATION FROM OUR PERFORMANCE AUDIT ON THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM. I KNOW SENATOR BOLZ, SENATOR KRIST, AND MYSELF, OTHERS, PUT IN REQUESTS WANTING TO SEE SOMETHING GET DONE IN AN EVALUATION OF OUR BEHAVIORAL SYSTEM AND THIS IS ONE OF THE MANY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT CAME FROM THAT GREAT AUDIT REPORT FROM OUR OWN LEGISLATIVE PERFORMANCE AUDITORS HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE. SO WITH THAT, I'D LIKE TO THANK SENATOR WATERMEIER, SENATOR BOLZ, AND THE OTHER MEMBERS

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OF THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR PRIORITIZING THIS OVER THE LAST YEAR AND HOPEFULLY WE'LL SEE SOME MORE ACTION DONE WITH LR413. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR413]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR WATERMEIER. SENATOR WATERMEIER WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION FOR THE BODY IS THE ADOPTION OF LR413. ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE ALL VOTED THAT WISH? RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LR413]

CLERK: 32 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF LR413. [LR413]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LR413 IS ADOPTED. MR. CLERK. [LR413]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LR403 WAS A RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY SENATOR HANSEN. IT CALLS ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD TO APPOINT AN ELECTION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE AS A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATURE. RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED ON JANUARY 12, AT THAT TIME REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WHO HAS REPORTED THE RESOLUTION BACK TO THE FLOOR. THERE ARE EXECUTIVE BOARD COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS, MR. PRESIDENT. (AM2162, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 638.) [LR403]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR HANSEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON LR403. [LR403]

SENATOR HANSEN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I RISE TODAY TO INTRODUCE LR403 WHICH SEEKS TO CREATE A SPECIAL COMMITTEE, THE ELECTION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE, WITHIN THE LEGISLATURE TO ADDRESS NEBRASKA'S AGING ELECTION EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY. TO GIVE A BRIEF HISTORY OF NEBRASKA'S ELECTION TECHNOLOGY, IN 2002 CONGRESS PASSED THE HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT, COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS HAVA, TO REFORM THE NATION'S VOTING PROCESS, SPECIFICALLY AIMED AT MAKING IMPROVEMENTS TO VOTER SYSTEMS AND VOTER ACCESS. MANY OF THE ELECTION PROCEDURES WE HAVE TODAY, INCLUDING PROVISIONAL VOTING AND STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION DATABASES, WERE IMPLEMENTED VIA THE HAVA PROCESS. PERHAPS THE BEST KNOWN PART OF HAVA WAS THE FEDERAL FUNDS USED BY STATES TO UPDATE AND UPGRADE VOTING EQUIPMENT. AT THAT TIME, NEBRASKA RECEIVED SOMEWHERE IN THE \$14 MILLION TO \$16 MILLION RANGE, A FEDERAL

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ALLOCATION, A LARGE PORTION OF WHICH WAS USED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO PURCHASE OPTICAL SCAN VOTE TABULATORS AND AUTOMARK MACHINES. THE AUTOMARK MACHINES FULFILLS A HAVA REQUIREMENT THAT A VOTER BE ABLE TO CAST A BALLOT PRIVATELY AND INDEPENDENTLY AND A TOUCH SCREEN AUDIO AND BRAILLE ARE USED BY THOSE WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY, VISUAL OR HEARING IMPAIRMENT. NEBRASKA STATE STATUTE REQUIRES AT LEAST ONE AUTOMARK MACHINE AVAILABLE AND OPERATIONAL AT EVERY POLLING SITE. THE HAVA FUNDS WERE USED TO PURCHASE THESE MACHINES AND WENT THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE. AND CURRENTLY, THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE OWNS THE MACHINES AND REIMBURSES COUNTIES FOR EXPENSES PAID AND FOR MAINTENANCE. PRIOR TO HAVA, THESE MACHINES WERE NOT REQUIRED, BUT NOW THAT THEY ARE, AND WE'RE COMING TO THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY MAY NEED TO BE REPLACED SOON, THE QUESTION THE LEGISLATURE NEEDS TO ANSWER IS, WHO BUYS THE REPLACEMENTS, THE STATE OR THE COUNTIES? CURRENTLY, COUNTIES BEAR THE COST OF RUNNING ELECTIONS. BALLOT PRINTING, POLLING PLACE RENTAL FEES, AND POLL WORKER PAY ARE ALL FUNDED BY THE COUNTIES. ADDING THE PURCHASE OF ELECTION MACHINES COULD DOUBLE OR TRIPLE SOME COUNTY BUDGETS. FOR INSTANCE, HALL COUNTY JUST PURCHASED A NEW VOTE TABULATOR FOR \$100,000. A REPLACEMENT AUTOMARK MACHINE IS ESTIMATED TO BE AROUND THE \$500,000...SORRY, \$5,000 RANGE. AND LANCASTER COUNTY, FOR INSTANCE, HAS 175, WHICH WOULD COST SOMETHING APPROACHING \$900,000 TO REPLACE THEM ALL. SMALLER COUNTIES, WHILE HAVING SIGNIFICANTLY LESS MACHINES, WOULD ALSO SEE A DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE INCREASE IN THEIR BUDGET. THERE ARE MANY PATHS WE COULD TAKE REGARDING THIS ISSUE. DOES THE STATE PAY? DO THE COUNTIES PAY? DO THEY SPLIT THE COST? ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS NEED TO BE ANSWERED AT SOME POINT AND LR403 CREATES THE MECHANISM TO DO SO. THESE ARE POLICY DECISIONS THAT NEED TO BE MADE BY US AS THE POLICYMAKERS AND THAT IS WHY THIS LR IS PROPOSING CREATION OF A SELECT COMMITTEE OF SEVEN STATE SENATORS TO BE APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. TWO OF THE MEMBERS WOULD REPRESENT THE CHAIR OF GOVERNMENT, MILITARY AND VETERAN AFFAIRS AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES. BOTH OF THESE INDIVIDUALS, OR THEIR DESIGNEE, ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE BOTH MONETARY AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS ARE EXPLORED, DISCUSSED, AND EVALUATED. ANY PROPOSAL FROM THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE THAT RECOMMENDS STATE CONTROL OR PURCHASING WOULD, FOR EXAMPLE, NEED A LARGE APPROPRIATIONS BILL. FURTHER, THE APPROPRIATIONS CHAIR IS UNIQUELY SUITED TO PROVIDE INSIGHT ON WHERE STATE FUNDS, IF ANY, COULD COME FROM, WHILE THE GOVERNMENT

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COMMITTEE COULD PROVIDE INSIGHT TO THE CURRENT ELECTION PROCEDURES AND POLICIES. I FEEL THE SPECIAL AND SENSITIVE NATURE OF ELECTION LAW AND ELECTION TECHNOLOGY, AS WELL AS THE SCOPE OF THE POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS, SUPPORT A SPECIAL COMMITTEE RATHER THAN AN INTERIM STUDY OR OTHER AD HOC PLANNING. THIS WOULD ALLOW US TO CREATE A BROAD RANGE OF INTERESTED SENATORS TO JOIN IN AND SHARE THEIR EXPERTISE WHILE ALSO HIGHLIGHTING THESE ISSUES TO THE PUBLIC. TO ENSURE THAT VOICES WERE HEARD AND COMMENTS INCORPORATED TO ANY PROPOSAL, THERE ARE SET FORTH A LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS THE COMMITTEE MUST SOLICIT TESTIMONY FROM, INCLUDING THE SECRETARY OF STATE, ELECTION COMMISSIONERS AND COUNTY CLERKS FOR BOTH URBAN AND RURAL COUNTIES, INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, AND OTHER ELECTION STAKEHOLDERS. PASSING LR403 NOW AND TAKING 2016 TO EVALUATE OUR CURRENT ELECTION EQUIPMENT PUTS NEBRASKA IN ITS BEST PLACE TO BE DELIVERED AND COME TO A SENSIBLE SOLUTION LONG BEFORE THESE MACHINES CAUSE ANY ACTUAL PROBLEMS IN IMPLEMENTING OUR ELECTIONS. I'M THANKFUL TO SENATOR MURANTE FOR COSPONSORING THIS RESOLUTION WITH ME AND FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR UNANIMOUSLY ADVANCING LR403 TO THE FLOOR. I WOULD ASK THE BODY FOR A GREEN VOTE ON LR403 SO WE CAN TAKE A GOOD, HARD LOOK AT HOW ELECTIONS ARE IMPLEMENTED IN THIS STATE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR403]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HANSEN. SENATOR HUGHES, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LR403]

SENATOR HUGHES: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I AM SUPPORTING THIS LR, BUT I JUST WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO POINT OUT, THIS IS YET ONE MORE TIME THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS CREATED A MANDATE AND THEY SAID VOTING MACHINES NEEDED TO BE IN PLACE FOR THOSE WHO NEEDED THEM. THEY SPENT...THEY SENT MONEY ALONG IN ORDER TO PAY FOR THEM INITIALLY. NOW THAT WE HAVE TO UPGRADE, WHO'S ON THE HOOK? THE STATE. THE STATE'S GOING TO PROBABLY PASS IT ALONG TO THE COUNTIES, BUT IT'S THE TAXPAYER. EVERY TAX WE COLLECT COMES FROM INCOME TAX. WE CALL IT OTHER NAMES, BUT YOU HAVE TO HAVE INCOME IN ORDER TO PAY YOUR TAXES. AND THIS IS JUST ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PASSING A MANDATE AND NOT CONTINUING TO FUND IT, MOVING ON. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR403]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HUGHES. AS THE CLERK MENTIONED, THERE ARE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. SENATOR KRIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED,

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AS CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, TO OPEN ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LR403]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES, AND AGAIN, GOOD MORNING, NEBRASKA. THIS AMENDMENT IS VERY SHORT AND, TO THAT POINT, VERY SWEET. IT JUST REMOVES...STRIKES THE LAST OCCURRENCE OF "OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE." WE FELT IT TO BE IMPORTANT ENOUGH THAT THE CHAIR OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ON THE COMMITTEE ITSELF. I ASK YOU FOR A GREEN VOTE ON AM2162 AND A GREEN ON LR403. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR403]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR KRIST. YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING TO THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. IS THERE ANYONE WISHING TO SPEAK? SEEING NONE. SENATOR KRIST WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION FOR THE BODY IS THE ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY VOTING AYE; OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE ALL VOTED THAT WISH? RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LR403]

CLERK: 29 AYES, 2 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LR403]

SPEAKER HADLEY: COMMITTEE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED. SENATOR HANSEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON LR403. [LR403]

SENATOR HANSEN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES. I'LL KEEP THIS VERY BRIEF. I HAD ONE QUESTION OFF THE MICROPHONE AND THIS IS A SHORT-TERM GROUP THAT WILL PREPARE THEIR REPORT AND IMPLEMENT IT VIA THIS DECEMBER. WE'RE NOT CREATING A LONGSTANDING GROUP. WITH THAT, I WOULD ASK ALL MY COLLEAGUES TO CONTINUE TO VOTE GREEN AND HELP US MAKE SURE WE HAVE EFFECTIVE ELECTIONS AND ELECTION TECHNOLOGY IN THE STATE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR403]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HANSEN. THE QUESTION FOR THE BODY IS THE ADOPTION OF LR403. ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE ALL VOTED THAT WISH? RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LR403]

CLERK: 30 AYES, 4 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF LR403. [LR403]



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SPEAKER HADLEY: LR403 IS ADOPTED. MR. CLERK FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS.  
[LR403]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, A FEW ITEMS. NEW RESOLUTIONS: SENATOR BOLZ OFFERS LR456; SENATOR SCHEER AND OTHERS, LR457. THOSE WILL BOTH BE LAID OVER. SENATOR COASH WOULD LIKE TO PRINT AN AMENDMENT TO LB894. BILLS READ ON FINAL READING WERE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR AT 10:40 THIS MORNING (RE: LB19, LB53, LB221, LB295, LB311, LB328, AND LB378). AND I HAVE CONFIRMATION REPORTS FROM THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, MR. PRESIDENT. THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE, THANK YOU. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 752-754.) [LR456 LR457 LB894 LB19 LB53 LB221 LB295 LB311 LB328 LB378]

SENATOR KRIST PRESIDING

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SPEAKER HADLEY FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BODY, I HAVE JUST TWO QUICK ANNOUNCEMENTS. I'M GOING TO BE HANDING OUT A SHEET THAT IS THE STATUS OF THE 2016 PRIORITY BILLS AS OF DAY 34. AND YOU CAN LOOK AND SEE WHERE ALL THE BILLS ARE AT THIS POINT IN TIME IN OUR PROCESS. I WILL BE HANDING OUT THIS SHEET THE FIRST DAY OF EACH OF THE WEEKS FOR THE REMAINING SESSION. SO, YOU WILL KNOW WHERE BILLS STAND ON WHAT WE HAVE LEFT TO GET THROUGH. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ON THE SHEET, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO ASK ANY QUESTIONS. SECONDLY, AND THIS IS VERY, VERY IMPORTANT, BILLS, I'M GOING TO HAVE ANOTHER CONSENT CALENDAR. IN ESSENCE, ONLY BILLS ON GENERAL FILE, PAPERWORK FILED WITH THE CLERK BY MARCH 10, 2016, PRIOR TO ADJOURNMENT, WILL BE ELIGIBLE. SO MARK THAT DOWN. MARCH 10, PRIOR TO ADJOURNMENT, IN ESSENCE, PAPERWORK FILED WITH THE CLERK, THOSE BILLS WILL BE CONSIDERED. MARCH 11, 2016, AT 5:00 P.M., IS THE DEADLINE FOR A PRINCIPAL INTRODUCER TO SUBMIT TO ME A LETTER REQUESTING A BILL TO BE CONSIDERED ON THE FINAL 2016 CONSENT CALENDAR. I WOULD BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO DISCUSS THIS WITH YOU AND TALK ABOUT ANY POTENTIAL BILLS AND SUCH AS THAT. BUT REMEMBER THOSE TWO DATES. THE FIRST DATE IS MARCH 10, IN ESSENCE, PAPERWORK FILED WITH THE CLERK ON THE BILL; MARCH 11, THE LETTER IN MY OFFICE REQUESTING THAT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

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SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SPEAKER HADLEY. MR. CLERK, NEXT ITEM.

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LB371, INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SULLIVAN. (READ TITLE.) INTRODUCED ON JANUARY 15, REFERRED TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. SENATOR SULLIVAN PRESENTED HER BILL, MR. PRESIDENT, LAST WEEK. AT THAT TIME SHE PRESENTED THE BILL AS WELL AS THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. THOSE AMENDMENTS ARE PENDING. (AM1268, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1244, FIRST SESSION, 2015.) [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR SULLIVAN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO REFRESH US ON LB371? [LB371]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: YES. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. AND, YES, TO REFRESH YOUR MEMORY ON WHAT LB371 DOES, IT CREATES THE NEBRASKA COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS. AND IN DOING THAT, IT BRINGS TOGETHER ALL ENTITIES ACROSS THE EDUCATIONAL CONTINUUM ALL THE WAY FROM PRE-K TO HIGHER EDUCATION TO DISCUSS EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES AND GOALS FOR THE STATE. AND IN SO DOING, IT PUTS IT IN STATUTE THAT THIS IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF THIS GROUP AND ALSO IDENTIFIES THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE GROUP. THE ACCOMPANYING COMMITTEE AMENDMENT CLARIFIES THE MEMBERSHIP TO THE NEBRASKA COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS. IT NAMES THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AS THE CHAIR OF THE GROUP, AND THEN FURTHER CLARIFIES THAT THE COCHAIR WOULD BE SELECTED FROM WITHIN THE GROUP ONCE THIS GROUP IS CREATED. AND ALSO THE AMENDMENT CLARIFIES THAT ONE OF THE FIRST CHARGES OF THIS NEW COUNCIL WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEES TO STUDY COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS, POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS, AND BUSINESS AND EDUCATION INNOVATION. THOSE, IN ESSENCE, ARE THE COMPONENTS OF LB371 AND THE ACCOMPANYING AMENDMENT, AM1268. THANK YOU. [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SULLIVAN. COLLEAGUES, YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING ON AM1261 AND LB371. THOSE WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATOR BOLZ, BLOOMFIELD, AND HUGHES. SENATOR BOLZ, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB371]

SENATOR BOLZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE THIS MORNING JUST TO SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF THIS BILL AND TO DESCRIBE WHY I CHOSE THIS AS A PRIORITY BILL FOR THE 2016 SESSION. AND IT REALLY COMES FROM SERVING AS

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A MEMBER OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. EVERY YEAR WE GET REQUESTS FOR EDUCATION AND THAT'S GOOD AND APPROPRIATE. AND EVERY YEAR WE HEAR STATISTICS ABOUT HOW WE NEED BETTER COORDINATION AND BETTER OUTCOMES FROM EDUCATION. LET ME SHARE JUST A COUPLE OF THOSE. FIRST, 42 PERCENT OF OUR YOUNG CHILDREN ARE AT RISK OF FAILING IN SCHOOL. THOSE ARE KIDS WHO ARE HOMELESS OR COME FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES OR COME FROM FAMILIES WHERE THE PARENTS ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 20. ANOTHER STATISTIC IS 39 PERCENT; WE'RE ONLY REACHING 39 PERCENT OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL AID AND IN NEED OF FINANCIAL AID TO PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION. WE NEED TO DO BETTER THAN THAT. ONE MORE STATISTIC AND THAT'S 29 PERCENT; 29 PERCENT OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO GRADUATE FROM NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOLS AND TRANSITION TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION LEAVE BEFORE FINISHING THEIR FRESHMAN YEAR. COLLEAGUES, THOSE STATISTICS TELL A STORY TO ME ABOUT THE NEED FOR IMPROVED COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION SO THAT WE CAN BETTER LEVERAGE THE FUNDS THAT WE DO HAVE TO REACH OUTCOMES AND TO REACH OUR EDUCATIONAL GOALS THAT LEAD TO SUCCESS FOR ALL OF OUR KIDS AT EVERY STAGE OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT. AND SO I APPLAUD SENATOR SULLIVAN AND HER WORK TO BRING TOGETHER A COMMISSION TO TALK ABOUT THIS VISION TO COLLABORATE, TO COORDINATE, TO MAKE SURE THAT WE'RE USING BEST PRACTICES AND FINDING THE SOFT SPOTS WHERE TARGETED DOLLARS OR TARGETED STRATEGIES OR TARGETED CHANGES CAN REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE. SO IN ADDITION TO THINKING ABOUT THIS FROM AN EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS AND A COST SAVINGS PERSPECTIVE FROM THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, I ALSO THINK ABOUT THIS AS A GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND TRANSPARENCY FUNCTION. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO ME IN THIS PIECE OF LEGISLATION IS THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. AND I THINK WE'VE SEEN GREAT OUTCOMES IN OTHER TASK FORCES WHERE WE'VE SEEN POLICY CHANGE AS AN OUTCOME OF THOSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. AS A MEMBER OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSION, I CAN TELL YOU THAT SOME GREAT POLICY HAS MOVED FORWARD BECAUSE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT COME FROM THE PUBLIC REPORTS THAT STAKEHOLDERS BUY INTO. SENATOR CAMPBELL'S NORMALCY INITIATIVE RELATING TO FOSTER YOUTH IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF THAT. SO, AT THE END OF THE DAY, COLLEAGUES, I THINK THAT THIS IS A REALLY IMPORTANT FUNCTION TO BRING TOGETHER ALL OF THE STAKEHOLDERS AND TO HAVE A MORE UNIFIED VOICE AND A CLEARER VISION FOR HOW WE USE STATE DOLLARS, FOR WHERE WE'RE GOING AS A STATE, AND FOR HELPING OUR PEOPLE COMPETE IN A 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY GLOBAL ECONOMY. WITH THAT, MR. PRESIDENT, I WILL WRAP UP AND THANK SENATOR SULLIVAN FOR HER GREAT

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WORK, NOT ONLY ON THIS BILL, BUT IN HER TENURE AS THE CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR BOLZ. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB371]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I BELIEVE THIS IS A FIRST FOR ME. I HAVE NEVER, I DON'T BELIEVE, NOT SUPPORTED A SULLIVAN EDUCATION BILL, BUT I CAN'T SUPPORT THIS ONE. I THINK IT'S A DUPLICATION PROCESS WITH A \$50,000 FISCAL NOTE OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS THAT WE REALLY DON'T NEED TO SPEND AND WE REALLY DON'T HAVE. LAST WEEK, THE GOVERNOR'S ROUNDTABLE WAS MENTIONED. SENATOR SULLIVAN SERVES ON THAT. BUT JUST LET ME READ INTO THE RECORD SOME OF THE PEOPLE THAT SERVE ON THAT ROUNDTABLE. I THINK EDUCATION IS WELL SERVED BY THIS: PETE RICKETTS, GOVERNOR, STATE OF NEBRASKA; MATTHEW BLOMSTEDT, COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; HANK BOUNDS, PRESIDENT OF NEBRASKA UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA; LIZ KOOP, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF EDUCATIONQUEST FOUNDATION; CHRIS ROTH, PRESIDENT, REINKE MANUFACTURING, INC.; KATE SULLIVAN, NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE, EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON. THEY'RE HEADING IT UP. BELOW THAT: MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEBRASKA COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION; STAN CARPENTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGE SYSTEM; THOMAS CHRISTIE, NAACP EDUCATION COMMITTEE; MICHAEL DULANEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEBRASKA COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS; NANCY FULTON, PRESIDENT, NEBRASKA STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION; JUDI GAIASHKIBOS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS; PAT HAVERTY, VICE PRESIDENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LINCOLN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; TODD HOLCOMB, PRESIDENT, NEBRASKA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NEBRASKA COMMUNITY COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE. AND THE LIST GOES ON, COLLEAGUES. EDUCATION IS GOING TO BE WELL SERVED BY THIS ROUNDTABLE. I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO SPEND \$50,000 AND CREATE ANOTHER COMMISSION OUT OF THIS LEGISLATIVE BODY. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SENATOR HUGHES, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB371]

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SENATOR HUGHES: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING AGAIN, COLLEAGUES. I WAS WONDERING IF SENATOR SULLIVAN WOULD YIELD FOR SOME QUESTIONS. [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR SULLIVAN, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB371]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: YES, I WILL. [LB371]

SENATOR HUGHES: THANK YOU, SENATOR SULLIVAN. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD REFERENCED THE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE ROUNDTABLE THAT THE GOVERNOR HAS. HOW IS THAT DIFFERENT THAN WHAT YOU'RE PROPOSING HERE? [LB371]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THE MOST SIGNIFICANT THING IS THAT THE CURRENT NAME OF IT, THE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE ROUNDTABLE, EXISTS BECAUSE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER. WE DID NOT HAVE ANY ROLE IN CREATING THAT. IT STRICTLY EXISTS BECAUSE OF, AND AT THE PLEASURE OF, OUR GOVERNOR. [LB371]

SENATOR HUGHES: OKAY, THANK YOU. AND WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO ACHIEVE HERE AS THE NEBRASKA COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS, HAVE WE DONE THIS BEFORE? IS THIS A CONTINUATION OR SOMETHING THAT STARTED AND STOPPED AND WE'RE RESURRECTING, OR WHERE DID THIS COME FROM? [LB371]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: WELL, REALLY, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'RE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION IN THE LEGISLATURE. THE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE ROUNDTABLE PROBABLY GOT ITS START...IT WAS NAMED THE P-16 INITIATIVE UNDER GOVERNOR HEINEMAN. IT MAY HAVE EVEN ACTUALLY BEEN CREATED VIA EXECUTIVE ORDER THROUGH GOVERNOR HEINEMAN...GOVERNOR JOHANNIS. SO IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A CONVERSATION AND A MEMBERSHIP THAT HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AND LED BY THE GOVERNOR. AND I'M SIMPLY SAYING FOR PERMANENCY, AND FOR AS NONPOLITICAL IN NATURE AS POSSIBLE AND AS IMPORTANT AS EDUCATION IS, THAT IT NEEDS TO BE PUT IN STATUTE, AND WE NEED TO HAVE THIS DISCUSSION HERE IN THIS BODY. [LB371]

SENATOR HUGHES: OKAY. THANK YOU, SENATOR SULLIVAN. LOOKING AT THE FISCAL NOTE--I GUESS ONE MORE QUESTION--AS I'VE ADDED UP, IT LOOKS LIKE IT COMES TO ABOUT \$260,000 WITH ALL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ED AND THE

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LEGISLATURE FISCAL IMPACT. IS THAT...AM I READING THAT CORRECTLY?  
[LB371]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: WELL, AGAIN, LET'S BE CLEAR ABOUT WHAT IS ALREADY BEING SPENT ON THIS THAT, I WOULD UNDERSCORE, WE HAVE NOT EVER HAD A SAY IN. RIGHT NOW, \$100,000 OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA'S BUDGET GOES TO SUPPORT THE P-16 OR EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE ROUNDTABLE, \$50,000 GOES...IS ALREADY BEING DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THIS EFFORT. WHAT LB371 SAYS, BASICALLY, IS WE'RE GOING ADD AN ADDITIONAL \$29,000. SO THE NEW MONEY IS ONLY \$29,000. THE OTHER IS ALREADY BEING DESIGNATED AND SPENT. SO WE'RE JUST TALKING ABOUT \$29,000 APPROXIMATELY IN NEW MONEY THAT WOULD BE FOR SUPPORT OF THIS NEBRASKA COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION AND SUCCESS. WE'RE JUST PULLING IN THEN UNDER THIS CREATION OF LB371, THE \$100,000 CURRENTLY EXISTS IN THE UNIVERSITY'S BUDGET AND THE \$50,000 THAT CURRENTLY EXISTS IN THE DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET. [LB371]

SENATOR HUGHES: SO THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE ROUNDTABLE WOULDN'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE FUNDS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OR THE OTHER \$50,000?  
[LB371]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: NOT UNDER THIS LEGISLATION. [LB371]

SENATOR HUGHES: ALSO THERE WAS \$50,000 OF PRIVATE FUNDING? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE THAT CAME FROM? [LB371]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: I WOULD SUSPECT THAT THAT IS FROM...THERE IS A PRIVATE ENTITY, THAT EDUCATIONQUEST, THAT SITS ON THE CURRENT P-16 OR EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE ROUNDTABLE. SO I THINK THEY HAVE DESIGNATED SOME DOLLARS IN SUPPORT OF THAT EFFORT. [LB371]

SENATOR HUGHES: OKAY. THANK YOU, SENATOR. [LB371]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: BUT, JUST AGAIN, THE WAY LB371 IS DESIGNATED, IT ALSO ALLOWS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THIS GROUP TO ACCEPT GRANTS FROM PRIVATE ENTITIES. SO THAT COULD ALSO HAPPEN WITH THIS LEGISLATION. [LB371]

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SENATOR HUGHES: THANK YOU, SENATOR SULLIVAN. I GUESS, COLLEAGUES, IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE WE'RE CREATING REDUNDANCY... [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB371]

SENATOR HUGHES: ...IN STATUTE. AND ONCE SOMETHING GETS INTO STATUTE, IT BECOMES VERY, VERY DIFFICULT TO GET IT OUT. I DO APPRECIATE SENATOR SULLIVAN AND SENATOR BOLZ'S INITIATIVE OF TRYING TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE PROCESS, BUT I THINK THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION, UNDER THE GOVERNOR, AND WHOEVER THAT IS, I THINK IT'S THEIR...IN THEIR JOB DESCRIPTION, IF YOU WILL, TO DO SOME FORWARD THINKING AND TO UNDERSTAND AND LOOK OUT FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, AND ALSO FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, TO ANTICIPATE THE NEEDS, TO MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE EDUCATING OUR KIDS, BUT ALSO TO ANTICIPATE THE NEEDS IN THE WORK FORCE FOR THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB371]

SENATOR HUGHES: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR HUGHES AND SENATOR SULLIVAN. SENATOR CRAWFORD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB371]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE IN SUPPORT OF LB371. I THINK WE'RE HAVING A GOOD DISCUSSION ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE LEGISLATURE AND LEGISLATIVE STATUTE VERSUS THE ROLE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER. AND I JUST WANT TO ECHO THE COMMENTS THAT SENATOR SULLIVAN HAS MADE ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT WE AS THE LAWMAKING BODY PAY ATTENTION TO THE POLICYMAKING NEEDS THAT OUR STATE FACES OVER THE LONG HAUL. I WOULD REMIND THE BODY THAT OUR TWO LARGEST EXPENSES ARE IN EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE. AND I THINK THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SEEING BEFORE YOU TODAY LB371, AND I'M...AND YOU WILL SEE BEFORE YOU ANOTHER DAY A DISCUSSION ON A SIMILAR LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE TO BRING PEOPLE ACROSS THE STATE TOGETHER TO TALK ABOUT WHAT WE NEED TO DO IN FUTURE PLANNING AND POLICY FOR HEALTHCARE AS WELL. WHAT WE'VE SEEN IN A TERM-LIMITED LEGISLATURE IS THAT WE NEED MORE ATTENTION TO HAVING LONG-RANGE PLANNING AND LONG-RANGE POLICYMAKING, ESPECIALLY ON THESE TWO AREAS, EDUCATION

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AND HEALTHCARE, THAT ARE SUCH A CENTRAL RESPONSIBILITY OF US IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. SO I THINK IT'S VERY CRITICAL THAT WE AS A LEGISLATURE RECOGNIZE OUR ROLE IN CHARTING A LONG-TERM COURSE FOR THE STATE IN TERMS OF HEALTH POLICY. AND HERE'S WHERE I SEE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN WHAT WE DO AS THE LEGISLATURE IN ESTABLISHING THAT LONG-TERM COURSE FOR EDUCATION POLICY AND EDUCATION SPENDING. THAT'S OUR JOB AS THE LAWMAKING BODY AND THE BODY THAT APPROPRIATES MONEY. WE OBVIOUSLY WORK IN CONCERT WITH WHOEVER IS THE GOVERNOR AT THE TIME BECAUSE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO MAKE SURE THESE POLICIES ARE CARRIED OUT AND MAKE SURE THEY'RE CARRIED OUT IN A WAY THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF OUR CITIZENS AND OUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. SO, I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE ESTABLISH THE COMMITTEE THAT'S ESTABLISHED IN LB371 TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE PULLING TOGETHER THE PEOPLE IN ALL OF THESE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES THAT ARE...THAT HAVE BEEN HERE FOR THE LONG HAUL AND ARE ABLE TO HELP US THINK AND CAREFULLY PLAN FOR LONG-RANGE EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND APPROPRIATION. AND IT'S MY EXPECTATION THAT THEY THEN WILL BE WORKING WITH GOVERNOR RICKETTS DURING HIS ADMINISTRATION TO ENSURE WE'RE CARRYING OUT THE BEST POLICY AND CARRYING OUT THOSE POLICIES AND CARRYING OUT THOSE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE BEST WAY THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE STATE AT THAT TIME. BUT THE LONG RANGE NEED IS STILL THERE, SO WHEN ANOTHER GOVERNOR COMES IN, THAT WE DON'T START THIS PROCESS OVER AND OVER AGAIN WITH EACH GOVERNOR. SO WE ALREADY HAVE THE CHALLENGE IN OUR LEGISLATIVE BODY THAT WE SOMETIMES HAVE TO START THE LEARNING AND START THE PLANNING PROCESS OVER AND OVER AGAIN AS OUR SENIOR MEMBERS, LIKE SENATOR SULLIVAN, WHO HAVE ALL OF THIS EXPERTISE, LEAVE US BECAUSE OF TERM LIMITS. BUT WE DO NOT WANT TO HAVE TO START THE PROCESS OVER AND OVER AGAIN AND START THE PLANNING PROCESS OVER AND OVER AGAIN WITH EACH GOVERNOR EITHER. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT THERE ARE THESE LONG-RANGE PLANS FOR POLICY AND APPROPRIATION AND THAT WE HAVE A MECHANISM TO MAKE SURE THAT HAPPENS. THE ADVANTAGE OF DOING THAT THROUGH STATUTE IS THAT WE GET AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ABOUT AND DECIDE WHO ARE ON THESE COMMITTEES AND WHAT SOME OF THE KEY LONG-RANGE QUESTIONS ARE THAT NEED TO BE ANSWERED. [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB371]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. OUR DECISION ABOUT WHO SHOULD BE ON THE BOARD, AND OUR DECISIONS ABOUT WHAT WE THINK



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THOSE LONG-RANGE QUESTIONS SHOULD BE, MAY BE DIFFERENT THAN THAT OF A SITTING GOVERNOR. EACH FUTURE LEGISLATURE CAN COME IN AND CAN CHOOSE HOW THEY MIGHT WANT TO ADJUST THE WORK OF THIS COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE BECAUSE THERE MAY BE NEW IDEAS ABOUT WHAT SOME OF THOSE LONG-RANGE ISSUES ARE. BUT AGAIN, I THINK THERE IS A...IT IS IMPORTANT AS ONE OF THE AREAS THAT IS OUR GREATEST AREA OF SPENDING, AND OUR GREATEST RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR CITIZENS, THAT WE HAVE THIS LONG-RANGE TOOL TO HELP US MAKE THE BEST POLICY AND BEST APPROPRIATION DECISIONS AND TO HELP THE GOVERNOR MAKE THE BEST ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS AS WELL. IT DOES NOT PREVENT THE GOVERNOR FROM HAVING OTHER ROUNDTABLES AND DISCUSSIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION, BUT THIS COMMITTEE THEN WILL REALLY HELP US FOCUS ON THOSE LONG-RANGE POLICY AND APPROPRIATION DECISIONS THAT WE NEED PARTICULARLY IN A TIME OF TERM LIMITS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CRAWFORD. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB371]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I RISE IN STRONG SUPPORT OF LB371 FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS AND I'LL TRY TO EXPLAIN A LITTLE HISTORY HERE IN THE FIVE MINUTES I HAVE. BACK IN 2014, I DID AN INTERIM STUDY EVALUATING THE P-16 COUNCIL IN THE STATE BECAUSE SOME OF THE CONCERNS YOU'VE JUST HEARD RAISED ON THE FLOOR WERE EXACTLY THE CONCERNS I RAISED IN LIGHT OF WHAT WE HAD SEEN ESSENTIALLY AS A QUASI-GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE THAT WAS BEING ORGANIZED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SYSTEM, BUT ALSO TAKING ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL DIRECTION FROM THE GOVERNOR IN THIS STATE. AND THE REALITY IS NEITHER ONE OF THOSE ENTITIES, THE GOVERNOR OR THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, CAN CREATE PUBLIC POLICY THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE, THAT THEY DO NOT GET TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION, THEY DO NOT GET TO MAKE A LAW CHANGE. AND THROUGH OUR WORK WITH SENATOR SULLIVAN OVER THE INTERIM OF 2014 IN THE BEGINNING OF LAST YEAR, IT WAS KIND OF A JOINT DECISION THAT WE DIDN'T NEED TO HAVE TWO SEPARATE CONCEPTS BEING FLOATED OUT THERE TO TAKE WHAT ESSENTIALLY IS THE LEGISLATURE'S ROLE OF CREATING LONG-TERM PLANNING AND LONG-TERM POLICY AND PUTTING IT INTO STATE STATUTE. AND I THINK TO SOME EXTENT WITH MY GOOD FRIEND, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD AND SENATOR HUGHES, RAISING CONCERNS ABOUT THIS BILL, THE REALITY IS, WHATEVER THE GOVERNOR, NO MATTER WHO THE GOVERNOR IS, THEY CAN CHOOSE TO DO WHATEVER IT IS THEY WANT TO DO WHEN IT COMES TO WORK FORCE

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DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION PLANNING. AND THE REALITY IS, THE LEGISLATURE MAY OR MAY NOT AGREE WITH THAT PERSON. AND THE THOUGHT IS, THAT SAME CONCERN EXISTED WITH PREVIOUS GOVERNORS, NOT JUST THE ONE WE HAVE NOW, IN LIGHT OF WHY IS IT THAT WE WOULD WANT TO CREATE AND ALLOW A SYSTEM TO BE CREATED IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH THROUGH EXECUTIVE ORDER THAT IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY REAL ABILITY TO MAKE THE CHANGE THAT AN ACTUAL STATE LAW WOULD NECESSITATE. ESSENTIALLY, IT'S FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, IT'S FOR A POLITICAL SOAP BOX. AND THAT ESSENTIALLY IS WHAT WE'VE SEEN FROM THE P-16 COUNCIL OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS. THEY WOULD OCCASIONALLY...SENATORS WOULD BRING BILLS TO THE LEGISLATURE THAT WAS INSPIRED BY WORK FROM THE P-16 COUNCIL. BUT THERE WAS NEVER AN OVERARCHING POLICY THAT WAS DIRECTLY CHANGED DUE TO IT. IT WAS GOALS. IT WAS SETTING A GOAL SAYING WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH X, Y, AND Z. AND, COLLEAGUES, GOALS ARE FINE WHEN IT COMES TO THE UNIVERSITY, THE STATE COLLEGE SYSTEM, EVEN THE GOVERNOR SAYING THIS IS A GOAL I WANT TO HAVE. COLLEAGUES, THAT'S...THAT'S...I WOULD EXPECT THAT FROM THESE OTHER ENTITIES AND I WOULD EXPECT THAT FROM WHOEVER IS OUR GOVERNOR. BUT WHAT YOU HAVE IN LB371 IS TAKING WHAT, I WOULD SAY, IS THE BEST COMPONENTS, STRUCTURALLY THE BEST COMPONENTS OF THE FORMER P-16 COUNCIL, PUTTING IT INTO STATUTE, AND CREATING SOME PERMANENCY BEHIND IT, CREATING SOME LONG-TERM PLANNING AND PERMANENCY THAT FRANKLY OUTLASTS GOVERNOR JOHANNNS, OUTLASTS GOVERNOR HEINEMAN, OUTLASTS GOVERNOR RICKETTS. IT WILL BE THERE IN PLACE AS LONG AS THE LEGISLATURE DECIDES, TO SOME EXTENT, IF THEY WANT TO ELIMINATE IT FROM STATE LAW. SO IN SOME RESPECT, IT TAKES WHAT WE KNOW AS A BEST PRACTICE, PUTS IT INTO STATUTE, AND IT'S LED BY, ONE, NONPOLITICAL PEOPLE. IT'S NOT LED BY AN ELECTED OFFICIAL, WHICH I THINK IS VERY CRITICAL BECAUSE I CAN TELL YOU THIS, ELECTED OFFICIALS DISAGREE, COLLEAGUES, ON SCHOOL FINANCING, ON PRIORITIES WITHIN HIGHER EDUCATION AND K-12 EDUCATION. AND TO SOME EXTENT IF YOU'RE GOING TO TRY TO BUILD LONG-TERM SYSTEMS AND LONG-TERM SYSTEMS REFORM, THE BEST WAY TO DO IT IS TO HAVE IT BE DONE BY PROFESSIONALS, NOT BY POLITICIANS. AND THAT'S WHAT YOU SEE WITH LB371. I THINK SOMEONE MAY HAVE SAID EARLIER, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ACTUALLY IS NOT A CODE AGENCY. THEY DO NOT REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR. THEY REPORT TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. THAT'S AN ELECTED BOARD. BUT THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION IS APPOINTED AND PROVIDED A CONTRACT BY THAT BOARD AND THEY OPERATE OUTSIDE OF THE LEGISLATURE AND OUTSIDE OF THE GOVERNOR. [LB371]

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SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB371]

SENATOR MELLO: AND I FEEL COMFORTABLE IN REGARD TO SEEING THAT AGENCY SPEARHEAD A COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS BECAUSE THERE'S CONTINUITY. THERE'S LONGEVITY BEHIND THAT PLANNING. IT'S NOT CHANGING EVERY FOUR YEARS, SO TO SPEAK, BASED ON AN ELECTION. COLLEAGUES, I'M FINE WITH THE WAY THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT IS DRAFTED. I KNOW THERE WERE SOME CONCERNS RAISED AS THE ORIGINAL BILL WAS INTRODUCED. I THINK SENATOR SULLIVAN AND THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE ADDRESSES THAT. THERE'S A MINIMAL FISCAL NOTE OF \$20,000 DUE TO TAKING SOME OF THE ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION THAT WAS WITH THE UNIVERSITY AND TRANSITION IT TO THIS NEW COUNCIL. COLLEAGUES, I THINK THIS IS A GOOD LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR THE LEGISLATURE TO TAKE SOME OF THE POLITICS OUT OF LONG-TERM EDUCATION PLANNING, PUTTING IT WHERE IT NEEDS TO BE, AND STILL ALLOWS A GOVERNOR THROUGH AN EXECUTIVE ORDER, THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE, IF SO BE THROUGH AN LR OR A SPECIAL COMMITTEE, TO BE ABLE TO DO OTHER WORK THAT WE SO DEEM AND WANT TO SEE IT. BUT LB371, COLLEAGUES, TAKES WHAT WE SHOULD HAVE DONE YEARS AGO OF TAKING THE P-16 COUNCIL OUT OF THE POLITICAL SPHERE AND PUTTING IT DIRECTLY IN THE POLICY AND PLANNING SPHERE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. THOSE STILL WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATOR FRIESEN, SULLIVAN, AND BRASCH. SENATOR FRIESEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB371]

SENATOR FRIESEN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE IN STRONG...I'M NOT SURE WHAT I WANT, SENATOR MELLO. (LAUGHTER) I GUESS I HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS SO I'LL BE LISTENING, BUT MY FIRST THOUGHT THAT COMES TO MIND IS, YOU KNOW, WE HAVE A DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND WHAT ROLE DO THEY PLAY IN WHERE WE HEAD. MY CONCERN SOMETIMES IS WE PUT THINGS IN STATUTE, PUT GROUPS OUT THERE THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING AT THIS, BUT IN THE END WHEN WE LOOK AT EDUCATION, I LOOK AT THE K THROUGH 12 SYSTEM AND THEY HAVE A VERY...TO ME, SHOULD HAVE A VERY WELL-DEFINED ROLE AND THAT'S TO PREPARE OUR CHILDREN FOR CONTINUED EDUCATION, OR TO GO INTO THE WORK FORCE OR WHATEVER ELSE THEY MIGHT DO. AND SOMETIMES WHEN WE START TO PUT THINGS IN STATUTE, WE START TO DETERMINE DIRECTIONS OF WHERE WE WANT PEOPLE TO GO, AND WHEN I LOOK BACK ON MY CHOICE OF COLLEGE AT THE TIME, WE CONTINUALLY TRIED TO...THE DIRECTION EVERYBODY DETERMINED WE

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SHOULD GO IS THE FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE. WITHOUT A FOUR-YEAR DEGREE WE'RE... YOU KNOW, THAT'S JUST WHAT YOU HAVE TO HAVE TO SURVIVE IN TODAY'S WORLD. SO YOU GET GROUPS LIKE THIS THAT ARE... THAT PUT TOGETHER IN MOTION A DIRECTION OF WHERE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HEAD WITH EDUCATION AND SOMETIMES THEY MISS WHAT THE MARKET IS ASKING FOR. AND SO TO ME, YES, THERE TAKES SOME COORDINATION BETWEEN THE TWO... OR THE DIFFERENT LAYERS OF EDUCATION THAT WE HAVE, BUT WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S ROLE IN THIS? I MEAN, WE ALREADY HAVE THEM IN PLACE. I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH THEM. I'VE NEVER BEEN ON A SCHOOL BOARD. SO I HAVE LOTS OF QUESTIONS AS TO WHY THEY CAN'T DO THIS VERSUS A NEW COMMISSION THAT'S GOING TO COST A LOT MORE MONEY. SO I'M GOING TO LISTEN A LOT. I'M LEANING TOWARDS NOT SUPPORTING THIS, BUT I NEED TO HEAR MORE ON WHAT THE ROLE IS GOING TO BE OF THIS COMMISSION VERSUS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND HOW IT SETS PARAMETERS DOWN THE ROAD THAT ALLOWS FLEXIBILITY IN OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM. AND I LOOK AT SOME OF THE REQUIREMENTS THAT WE DO AND I'VE ALWAYS KIND OF THOUGHT THAT MAYBE WE HAVE NOT DONE A GOOD ENOUGH JOB AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL PREPARING OUR CHILDREN FOR COLLEGE. I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S MORE COORDINATION BETWEEN COLLEGES OR WHATEVER, BUT WHEN MY CHILDREN DIDN'T HAPPEN TO ATTEND, OR ONE OF THEM AT LEAST DIDN'T ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, AND WENT OUT OF STATE FOR COLLEGE, AND HER COMMENT WAS THAT THEY DID NOT PREPARE HER FOR A TOUGH COLLEGE. ONLY ONE COURSE IN OUR SCHOOL WAS, SHE FELT, STRONG ENOUGH IN ENGLISH AND WE HAPPEN TO HAVE AN ENGLISH TEACHER THAT WAS, I THINK, WELL QUALIFIED AND DID A REALLY GOOD JOB. BUT OTHER COURSES WERE NOT UP TO PAR WITH SOME OF THE TOUGHER SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY THAT ARE OUT THERE. AND SO WHEN WE KEEP TRYING TO FOCUS WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH, YOU KNOW, OUR K THROUGH 12 SYSTEM, I WONDER IF WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE COORDINATING WITH OUR HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM OR THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE IN PREPARING OUR CHILDREN TO ATTEND ANY COLLEGE IN THE COUNTRY AND TO SET THOSE STANDARDS SO THAT THEY CAN SUCCEED IN ANY PROGRAM THEY GO INTO. SO SOMETIMES WHEN WE COORDINATE TOO MUCH, WE WILL JUST HAVE ONE STANDARD THAT MAYBE OUR CHILDREN WON'T BE PREPARED WHEN THEY LEAVE THE STATE TO GET THEIR EDUCATION AT SOME OTHER COLLEGE. SO I'M OPEN TO LISTENING TO THE DISCUSSION. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S ROLE IS AND HOW THEY SHOULD BE PERFORMING VERSUS WHAT THIS COMMISSION IS GOING TO DO. AND I AM CAREFUL OF THE DOLLARS THAT WE'RE GOING TO SPEND. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB371]

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SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR FRIESEN. SENATOR BRASCH, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB371]

SENATOR BRASCH: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES. I THINK I WAS ONE OF THE FINAL SENATORS THAT STOOD UP BEFORE WE ADJOURNED ON THIS LAST WEEK AND I'M BACK TO WHERE I STARTED WONDERING WHY WHEN WE ALREADY HAVE A BOARD, PEOPLE IN PLACE--I BELIEVE SENATOR BLOOMFIELD READ EVERY ONE THAT'S A STAKEHOLDER--THAT CURRENTLY EXISTS OTHER THAN TO MAKE IT SO BY LEGISLATION. I'M NOT SURE THE "MAKE IT SO BY LAW" IS WHAT REALLY DRIVES THE SUCCESS OF ANY PROGRAM. I THINK PEOPLE NEED TO BE ENGAGED AND NOT NECESSARILY FROM THE TOP. WE HAVE ANOTHER NEW PROGRAM THAT I BELIEVE IS VERY EXCITING THAT FORMER SPEAKER ADAMS, AND FORMER CHAIR OF EDUCATION, ALONG WITH FORMER COMMISSIONER LANG, IS ACCELERATE NEBRASKA. AND IF YOU GO TO THEIR WEB PAGE, ONE OF THEIR ROLES IS TO COLLABORATE STAKEHOLDERS IN EDUCATION. AND THAT IS A NONGOVERNMENTAL, A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION THAT I BELIEVE THE MORE WE CAN DO OUTSIDE OF STATUTES, THE MORE INDIVIDUALS ARE WILLING TO BECOME PARTNERS IN THE SUCCESS OF AN INSTITUTION. I RECEIVED AN E-MAIL JUST LATELY FROM OUR COMMUNITY IN OUR DISTRICT SAYING THAT NO ONE IS RUNNING FOR SCHOOL BOARD OTHER THAN INCUMBENTS. IT'S HARD TO FIND SOMEONE ON A LOCAL LEVEL. WE NEED TO INVIGORATE OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO BECOME STAKEHOLDERS IN SCHOOL POLICY AND MOVE EDUCATION FORWARD FROM MAIN STREET, FROM OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES, NOT FROM THE WALLS OF THESE CAPITOL...YOU KNOW, OUR CAPITOL, NOT FROM THOSE WHO ALREADY HAVE DECISION-MAKING CAPACITIES WITH ASSOCIATION OF THIS AND THE ASSOCIATION OF THAT AND THE DIRECTOR OF THIS. AND IT HAPPENS WITH MOM AND POP AND GRANDMA OR GRANDPA AND INDIVIDUALS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF A STUDENT. YOU KNOW, IT HAPPENS IN THE CLASSROOM. WE CAN SAY ALL WE WANT TO AT ALL THE MEETINGS WE WANT TO, YOU CAN FUND AS MUCH AS YOU WANT TO, BUT THAT IS NOT GOING TO NECESSARILY CHANGE OUTCOMES. OUTCOMES ARE DRIVEN RIGHT THERE IN THE CLASSROOM, RIGHT THERE IN THE COMMUNITIES. AND I'M NOT CONFIDENT THAT JUST FORMING ANOTHER GROUP IS GOING TO ACHIEVE A CHANGE THAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR. YOU TALK TO INDIVIDUALS AND EVERYONE WILL AGREE, WE HAVE GREAT SCHOOLS, WE HAVE GREAT THIS...YOU KNOW, WE ARE NUMBER ONE, WE ARE...BUT YET WE KEEP THROWING MORE COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, MORE GROUPS, MORE...AND WHAT WILL THEY DO? I'M CURIOUS. WHEN THEY SIT DOWN, WHEN THEY MEET, WHEN THEY LEAVE THAT MEETING ROOM, WHAT WILL THAT CHANGE BE IN THE OUTCOME OF OUR EDUCATION?

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YOU KNOW, WILL THAT CHANGE OUR RANKING. YOU KNOW, WHAT...JUST HAVING A COMMISSION BECAUSE IT'S NOT BY STATUTE TO REPLACE... [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB371]

SENATOR BRASCH: ...A NONREGULATORY OR STATUTORY GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WILLING TO SPEND TIME TO COLLABORATE. I DON'T SEE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ONE OR THE OTHER, OTHER THAN AN ADDITIONAL FISCAL NOTE HERE. MR. PRESIDENT, I DO UNDERSTAND MY TIME IS AT THE END HERE OF THIS, BUT I'M NOT CERTAIN IF I WILL OPPOSE OR JUST BE PRESENT, NONVOTING. I'M NOT COMPLETELY CONFIDENT THIS WILL GET US TO WHERE WE NEED TO BE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES. [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR BRASCH. SENATOR HUGHES, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB371]

SENATOR HUGHES: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I DO NEED TO CLARIFY A COUPLE OF THINGS. SENATOR KINTNER DID POINT OUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS NOT UNDER THE GOVERNOR'S...IT'S NOT OF THE REVENUE...OR ADMINISTRATION, I'M SORRY. HE DOES APPOINT THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, BUT THEY ARE AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY. ALSO, ONE OF THE COMMENTS THAT SENATOR MELLO MADE ABOUT POLITICIANS NOT BEING IN CHARGE OR TAKING THE POLITICS OUT OF THAT. THERE'S POLITICS IN THIS BODY. WE ARE A NONPARTISAN BODY, BUT THERE ARE POLITICS HERE. AND EVERYTHING THAT WE DEAL WITH, VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING WE DEAL WITH, IS POLITICAL. SO THINKING THAT JUST BECAUSE THE ADMINISTRATION CHANGES OR DOESN'T CHANGE IT'S GOING TO BE MORE OR LESS POLITICAL THAN IF IT IS CONTROLLED BY THIS BODY, IS NOT A GOOD ARGUMENT, IN MY MIND. FOR ME, I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE DO HAVE SOME THOUGHTFUL EXPERTS LOOK AT WHERE WE ARE GOING WITH EDUCATION IN THIS STATE AND IF IT DOES, IN FACT, MEET THE WORK FORCE NEEDS TO MAKE THIS STATE GROW AND KEEP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE HOME. ONE OF MY PET PEEVES IS LOOKING AT COLLEGE DEGREES AND TRYING TO UNDERSTAND IF A KID GETS A DEGREE IN THAT, HOW ARE THEY GOING TO BE EMPLOYED, YOU KNOW? IS THE DEGREE THAT YOU'RE SEEKING GOING TO PROVIDE YOU WITH MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT AND A LIVING WAGE MOVING FORWARD? THAT'S THE CONVERSATION THAT NEEDS TO BE HAD. AND I THINK OUR COLLEGES CERTAINLY NEED TO HAVE THAT CONVERSATION WITH THE INCOMING FRESHMEN. YES, YOU NEED TO FOLLOW

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YOUR PASSION. YES, YOU NEED TO, YOU KNOW, FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS, BUT CAN YOU MAKE A LIVING AT IT? THAT'S A BIG PORTION OF THE CONVERSATION THAT I DON'T THINK IS BEING HAD. AND THE FACT THAT WE'RE JUST DUPLICATING, YOU KNOW, THE GOVERNOR HAS A TASK FORCE TO STUDY EDUCATION AND WE'RE PUTTING IN STATUTE AND THAT, ONCE YOU GET IT IN STATUTE, IT'S EXTREMELY HARD TO GET OUT. WE SPEND A LOT OF TIME DEBATING, DISCUSSING, SPENDING MONEY, BUT I THINK THIS IS SOME REDUNDANCY THAT WE CAN PROBABLY DO NOW...DO WITHOUT, AND RELY ON THE VOTERS OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA TO MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS WHEN THEY ELECT OUR POLITICIANS TO REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE MAJORITY OF THE PUBLIC. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR HUGHES. SENATOR KINTNER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB371]

SENATOR KINTNER: WELL, THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. YEAH, I ALWAYS WORRY WHEN WE CREATE A NEW TASK FORCE, SOMETHING ELSE TO STUDY, SOMETHING ELSE TO GROW GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, SENATOR SULLIVAN IS NOT EXACTLY ONE THAT'S COME UP WITH A LOT OF PROPOSALS IN MY TIME HERE TO GROW GOVERNMENT. I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO TALK TO HER YET. I'M SURE WE'RE GOING TO TALK TO IT AT LEAST BETWEEN ROUNDS, IF NOT BY TOMORROW, BUT I'M VERY SKEPTICAL OF THIS AT THIS POINT. BUT AGAIN, I HAVEN'T TALKED TO HER YET, SO I WANT TO AT LEAST HEAR WHAT SHE HAS TO SAY ON THIS. BUT I REALLY DON'T WANT TO PUT TOGETHER A BUNCH OF NEW TASK FORCES AND COMMITTEES AND STUDY THIS AND STUDY THAT. AND THEN WHEN YOU GOT TO SPEND MONEY ON IT, WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS THAT GOES THROUGH THAT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THEY COULDN'T TAKE \$29,000 OUT OF SOMETHING OVER THERE? IT'S NOT EXACTLY THE LEAN, MEAN, FIGHTING MACHINE, THAT AGENCY IS NOT. SO I CERTAINLY HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT SPENDING ANY MORE MONEY. AND I HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT CREATING A NEW TASK FORCE OR GROUP OR ANY KIND OF THESE TYPE OF COMMITTEE-TYPE THINGS. I JUST AM NOT COMFORTABLE WITH CREATING A BUNCH OF THESE, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE'VE GOT ONE THAT'S ALREADY IN PLACE. SO I'LL TALK, I'LL LISTEN. AT THIS POINT, PUT ME DOWN AS A SKEPTIC. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR SULLIVAN, SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN QUEUE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON LB371. [LB371]

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SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND I CERTAINLY HAVE APPRECIATED... [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: I'M SORRY. SENATOR SULLIVAN, LET ME CORRECT: TO CLOSE ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT, AM1268. [LB371]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: OH, THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. PRESIDENT. AND TO YOUR POINT OF CLARIFICATION, THE AMENDMENT CLARIFIES SOME DETAILS WITH RESPECT TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEBRASKA COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS. IT PUTS THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, AND BY WAY OF THAT, I SHOULD ADD, THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION IS NOT AN APPOINTED POSITION. THAT PERSON IS HIRED BY THE ELECTED OFFICIALS ON THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. SO UNDER THE AMENDMENT, THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION WOULD SERVE AS THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL AND THEN THE COCHAIR WOULD BE NAMED OR ELECTED FROM WITHIN THIS CURRENT BODY. ALSO, SPEAKING TO SOME OF THE CONCERNS THAT HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UP AS FAR AS SUBJECT MATTER AND PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE, WHICH IS WHAT EDUCATION IS SUPPOSED TO DO, ONE OF THE FIRST CHARGES OF THIS NEW ENTITY WOULD BE, AT A MINIMUM, FOR THEM, FOR THE COUNCIL, TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEES THAT WOULD STUDY COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS, POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS, AND BUSINESS AND EDUCATION INNOVATION. THOSE ARE THE DETAILS AND COMPONENTS OF AM1268. I WOULD ASK FOR YOUR GREEN VOTE ON THIS AMENDMENT. THANK YOU. [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: COLLEAGUES, YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING ON AM1268. THE QUESTION BEFORE YOU IS THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. SENATOR SULLIVAN. [LB371]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WOULD REQUEST A CALL OF THE HOUSE, PLEASE. [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: THERE'S BEEN A REQUEST TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL THE HOUSE GO UNDER CALL? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB371]

CLERK: 32 AYES, 0 NAYS TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. [LB371]



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SENATOR KRIST: THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. THOSE UNEXCUSED SENATORS OUTSIDE THE CHAMBER PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL PLEASE LEAVE THE FLOOR. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS WATERMEIER, MELLO, MURANTE, CHAMBERS, SCHILZ, AND GARRETT, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS GARRETT, SCHILZ, CHAMBERS, MURANTE, AND MELLO, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS SCHILZ, CHAMBERS, AND GARRETT, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATOR SCHILZ, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATOR SULLIVAN, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO PROCEED? [LB371]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: WE CAN...A ROLL CALL VOTE IN REGULAR ORDER, PLEASE. [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: THERE'S BEEN A REQUEST FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE, REGULAR ORDER. MR. CLERK. [LB371]

CLERK: (ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 754-755.) 19 AYES, 12 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. [LB371]

SENATOR KRIST: THE AMENDMENT FAILS TO BE ADOPTED. MR. CLERK, FOR ITEMS, AND RAISE THE CALL. [LB371]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORTS...OR A CONFIRMATION REPORT. AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE ALSO REPORTS LB1068 AS INDEFINITELY POSTPONED. SENATOR WATERMEIER WOULD LIKE TO ADD HIS NAME TO LB768; SENATOR DAVIS TO LB871; SENATOR KRIST TO LB707; SENATOR DAVIS, LB768; SENATOR GARRETT, LB990. MR. PRESIDENT, AN AMENDMENT TO BE PRINTED: SENATOR CRAIGHEAD TO LB...I'M SORRY, SENATOR CRAWFORD TO LB1059. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 755-756.) [LB1068 LB768 LB871 LB707 LB990 LB1059]

MR. PRESIDENT, A PRIORITY MOTION. SENATOR HANSEN WOULD MOVE TO ADJOURN THE BODY UNTIL TUESDAY, MARCH 1, AT 9:00 A.M.

SENATOR KRIST: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR, AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. WE'RE ADJOURNED UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING.