

Health and Human Services Committee

LB 834

January 19, 2012

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Chief Medical Officer and Director
Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services**

Good afternoon Senator Campbell and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Dr. Joann Schaefer (J-O-A-N-N S-C-H-A-E-F-E-R). I am the Chief Medical Officer and Director of the Public Health Division in the Department of Health and Human Services. I am here to testify in support of LB 834.

This legislation is the result of a collaborative effort that stretches over six years, and has most recently been facilitated by the active interest of Senator Gloor and Senator Campbell. It makes long-needed revisions in a very important piece of existing legislation – the Regulation of Health Professions Act.

The sole purpose of the Regulation of Health Professions Act, and the Credentialing Review commonly known as the (407) process that it created, is to support the legislature's ability to make sound policy decisions regarding the credentialing of health professions and in evaluating the need for changes in scopes of practice.

The goal of the changes identified in LB 834 is to make the program more helpful to you, more accessible and transparent for our stakeholders, and a better steward of the licensure fees that support it.

The most important change proposed under LB 834 is a revamping of the statutory criteria by which applications are evaluated. The new language is more direct, more relevant to the purposes of the program, and resolves many of the frustrations expressed by stakeholders over the years.

The composition and charge of the technical review committees in this program are also revised. The new language lays out a process for ensuring that more science-based evidence is included in each review. This bill also streamlines the application itself and the committee processes used in evaluating the applications.

In addition, clarifying language has been inserted for several definitions. Financial procedures for support of the program have been updated to conform with the Uniform Credentialing Act, but no new costs are created by this bill.

I believe that, if you choose to enact LB 834, you will find the resultant Credentialing Review (407) process to be even more informative and supportive of your public policy decision making.

Thank you and I stand ready to answer any questions you may have.