

Appropriations Committee
Budget Hearing – DHHS Division of Veterans’ Homes
March 16, 2015

John Hilgert, Director
Division of Veterans Homes

Good afternoon, Senator Mello and members of the Appropriations Committee. For the record, I am John Hilgert (J-O-H-N-H-I-L-G-E-R-T), Director of the DHHS Division of Veterans’ Homes.

As mentioned previously, the Governor’s recommendation included reappropriation of unused state general funds.

The Veterans’ Homes Division would like to respectfully request reappropriation of state general funds. Our reappropriation request includes an amount of \$1.9 million to support ongoing efforts to modernize and improve efficiency for the comfort of our veterans in the facilities. Additionally, a project for \$1.4 million to implement medication dispensing machines in each of the locations is planned to ensure the safe and proficient distribution of federal medications received in bulk. Also, \$2.3 million of the reappropriation is intended for replacement of electronic medical record capabilities.

The remaining reappropriation would be used to administratively support the capital construction plan to transition 12 Western Nebraska Veterans’ Homes beds from assisted living to skilled nursing. Both the Governor and the Appropriations Committee included this project in their recommendations. For that, we are grateful. Finally we request any remaining unobligated funds be reappropriated for our use in case of unexpected situations requiring immediate response that the facilities may face necessitating financial need for such response.

Thank you for your consideration of these items. I’m happy to answer any questions you have.