

Health and Human Services Committee

LB 264

March 5, 2015

**Dr. Joseph Acierno, Chief Medical Officer
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. Joseph Acierno (J-O-S-E-P-H A-C-I-E-R-N-O). I am the Chief Medical Officer and Director of the Division of Public Health for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and I am currently serving as acting CEO for the agency.

I am here today to offer neutral testimony regarding LB 264.

The Uniform Credentialing Act (UCA) regulates persons and businesses that provide health and health-related services and environmental services. LB 264 proposes changes in the UCA to require the Department to accept education, training or service completed by an applicant through military service toward meeting the minimum standards for a credential.

Recognizing military education, training or service toward minimum requirements for a credential may be acceptable in certain professions and not in others, depending on whether the education, training, or service earned through the military is comparable to education or training currently required. Many professions require education or training to be accredited by a recognized entity, and that may pose challenges for military education or training to be determined as comparable.

There have not been issues in Nebraska with credentialing military applicants. On average, credentials are issued within two days following the date that all requirements are met. In addition, the UCA allows military persons who are renewing their credentials to waive the renewal fee and waive the continuing competency requirements if they can provide documentation of active military service.