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Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
February 25, 2016

[LB792]

SENATOR KUEHN: (Exhibit 1) Thank you, Senator Murante, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee. I am Senator John Kuehn, J-o-h-n K-u-e-h-n, I represent District 38, which consists of seven counties in south-central Nebraska. I am here today to introduce LB792, which is a statute which would place restrictions upon certain elected officeholders and staff from engaging in the business of lobbying for a period of time following the end of their service and employment. At the beginning of my opening, I want to be clear and very up front about a few things. First, this proposal is not about or directed to any one individual or institution, past, present, or future. Also, in bringing this concept forward, this is not an accusation or implication of any existing inappropriate behavior. This is simply about a perception among voters and maintaining the full trust of the people of the state of Nebraska in their elected officials and those who work for me. Interestingly enough, my own experience is what brought this idea to the forefront. And it wasn't until I began researching that I recognized this as an issue which has been before the state of Nebraska and this body several times. Most recently in 2008, a similar piece of legislation was brought forward by Senator Bill Avery on behalf of then-Governor Dave Heineman. It's very interesting, when I decided to run for the Nebraska Legislature, as you're out campaigning you get that standard question to which you are prepared which is, why do you want to be a state senator? And while I am certainly by no means young, I certainly am in that middle age of my career and my earning potential. And I was amazed the number of people who directly have asked me through the course of campaigning for office as well as even in town halls about what my other motivations might be, having a question or almost a veiled accusation that serving as a state senator and the service that we do might, at some point in time, result in a greater payoff or payday or investment. So it was from those questions where I recognized that there was a degree of distrust among some voters as to what the motivations of state senators may be that I began looking into the concept of the revolving door, as it's known and referred to often and in federal parlance. LB792, as has been proposed, would prohibit state officeholders from becoming lobbyists and engaging in the activity of lobbying until two years after they leave their term of office and would prohibit certain employees from becoming lobbyists until one year after leaving their positions of policy influence. There is an amended language which has been circulated to the committee--it's highlighted in yellow--is the change from the original green copy. In consultation with the Accountability and Disclosure Office, they had suggested some

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language which was much more precise in that policymaking role from that which is in the original green copy. And I support the committee to look at and adopt that should they choose to move LB792 forward. This period of time is commonly referred to as a cooling-off period. In the federal system it's often referred to as stopping the revolving door because of the tendency, particularly of staff members, to leave a position, go into a lobbying event, and then come back into service in government, creating a revolving door of influence. This cooling-off period is not intended to restrict or limit an individual's ability to make a living or engage in the practice of making a living, but instead is to ensure that relationships and influence which may be developed during the term of their service or during their term in a policymaking position, is not used to unduly influence the policy and the political process. The public offices that are listed within LB792 that would be affected include: the office of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Attorney General, the State Treasurer, the Secretary of State, the Auditor of Public Accounts, members of the Legislature, members of the Public Service Commission, members of the State Board of Education, and members of the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska. Those individuals who, as stated in the amendment, engage in the drafting of legislation, testifying at public hearings regarding legislation, or attempting to influence matters before the Legislature as part of his or her official duties when employed by those offices would be restricted for a one-year period. LB792 in the time restrictions are a direct mirror of the federal revolving door rules. So in the federal system, federal elected officials, members of the Senate, are restricted from a two-year period and staff are restricted from one. In a very interesting fact, these kinds of revolving door statutes have been on the books federally since 1872. And 33 other states have some sort of statutory cooling-off period for elected officials, with 8 of them using the two-year period that is proposed in LB792. Nebraska does not currently have any restrictions on revolving door. It has considered them at the committee level multiple times in recent history. And I do think that, as a body that prides itself on our transparency and prides itself on our ability of unfettered access and equal access of the citizenry--our second house--to members of the Legislature, I think it's important that we maintain that public trust and public expectation when it comes to this regard. So with that, I'm happy to answer any questions that members of the committee may have. [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: Okay. Senator Larson, I saw, then Senator Garrett. [LB792]

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SENATOR LARSON: Thanks, Senator Kuehn. Looking at your amendment, why are you just exempting members of...individuals employed in these specific areas and not specifically a member of the Legislature, but legislative staff. Why just the Exec Board...not Exec Board, but the executive branch employees get exempted but not legislative employees? [LB792]

SENATOR KUEHN: Let me double-check on the language. Legislative Council, so all of our staff would be employees, but not employees of the Legislature, per se. They would be employees of Legislative Council. [LB792]

SENATOR LARSON: Okay, so you are exempting legislative employees? [LB792]

SENATOR KUEHN: Well, yeah. So, for example, our legislative assistants are employees of the Legislative Council and so they would be included in that. I think the clarity is, certainly someone in a nonpolicymaking or a position where the utilization of relationships either with other existing members of the lobby or interest groups as well as senators are not part of their job, would not be included in this. Whereas, someone who, let's say, was a research analyst for Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee would have significant relationships through the course of their work that they would have developed with stakeholders within the purview of that committee as well as existing senators. So it's, again, a reflection of the federal language. In full disclosure, most states do not have a staff provision. The staff provision was included in mirroring the federal guidelines and then bringing Nebraska into accordance with the federal system. [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: Okay. Senator Garrett. [LB792]

SENATOR GARRETT: Thank you, Senator Murante. Thank you, Senator Kuehn. I guess I have a real problem with this. And it's kind of disturbing to hear so many states that have this because legislative counsel, committee counsel on some of the committees that I've been on, those counsels have been doing that job for 40 years. And I just fundamentally, in my heart and soul, feel like the constitutionality of prohibiting someone from pursuing employment, that just doesn't in my...I'm not a lawyer. I play one in the Legislature. But I just...I don't see the constitutionality of trying to say that we're not going to allow you to do a job. And if an attorney

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for a committee...he or she is one election away from if the committee chair decides that they don't want that attorney and that person has been doing the job for 40-plus years, what else are they going to do? You know, they get two-weeks' severance from the state, so we're going to put them on the unemployment line? I just...when I got this job I was told to see the lobbyists...it's not a four-letter word, they're our subject matter experts. And I've had lobbyists on both sides of an issue lobbying me. And we go to them for information. And whether it's the Lieutenant Governor or the Attorney General or Secretary of State or whoever, there's a lot of great experience there. And I certainly don't feel like anyone's going to have any undo influence on me, but I'd sure like to be able to tap that information. [LB792]

SENATOR KUEHN: I don't disagree, Senator Garrett, and I appreciate the sentiment. I don't disagree and in no way am I making an accusation that there would be an undo influence. I think in this case it's about public perception. And whether we like it or not, consistent studies, including one recently done by the Pew Institute, showed that the trustworthiness of individuals in elected office is not particularly high. And while certainly we don't want to impede upon an individual's ability to make a living, an individual who serves in the public service--so he either has been elected as a member of the public service, or in the case of staff, who are trusted by the people of Nebraska to carry out a public duty--we do need to be cognizant of the appearance of being above reproach, not just you and "I's" word that we're above reproach. I think political transparency and maintaining the trust and confidence of the people should be first and foremost. You and I both know that going to a lunch sponsored by any of the myriad of groups that sponsors luncheons throughout the course of a session doesn't have an influence on our vote. But certainly there can, at times, be a public perception that that is an effort to gain access or gain influence. And I think to maintain the integrity of our system and to maintain the trust that the people of Nebraska have in us, it's important to go above and beyond to maintain that level of integrity. So I do not disagree that it creates an undo influence, I believe it's about the perception of the undo influence by voters. [LB792]

SENATOR GARRETT: Thank you. [LB792]

SENATOR KUEHN: You bet. [LB792]

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SENATOR MURANTE: Senator Bloomfield. [LB792]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: Thank you. Seeing as how I'm the only one sitting around this table that won't be back next year... [LB792]

SENATOR KUEHN: Is there an announcement you would like to make, Senator? [LB792]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: No. No, there isn't. But I doubt the ACLU will be trying to hire me as a lobbyist. But were they to make that foolish mistake, I don't know why I should be denied the privilege or the right to make a living. I really have an issue with this. If I were to do it, I'd actually do it the other way, say the lobbyists couldn't run for Legislature. Talk about undo influence, you've lobbied for somebody for five years and you get in the Legislature, you think your mind might be made up already? So I've got some issues with this. [LB792]

SENATOR KUEHN: I understand and I respect that position (inaudible). [LB792]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: Thank you. [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: Okay. Senator Groene. [LB792]

SENATOR GROENE: You say most states just have Section (5)(a), right? [LB792]

SENATOR KUEHN: Correct. [LB792]

SENATOR GROENE: Would you be adverse to... [LB792]

SENATOR KUEHN: No, I'm not adverse at all. And certainly the staff piece is not, as with any piece of legislation, certainly isn't a hill on which I would die or say that it has to be an all or none. The staff piece was simply included again to put all of the options before the committee to take a look at, given that it's reflected in the federal statutes. [LB792]

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SENATOR GROENE: Because the elected officials have campaign dollars. I see them...fund-raisers now for people term limited don't have any plan but might go into lobbying and they got that pool of money. And do you know if not they can take that pool of money and as a lobbyist then give it to other campaigns? Isn't that existing law? [LB792]

SENATOR KUEHN: The...and Mr. Daley may be able to speak to greater detail about the actual legalities and logistics. But it is my understanding that the same rules for utilizing campaign funds while you are campaigning or in office apply up until you close that campaign committee at some point (inaudible). [LB792]

SENATOR GROENE: So I could be a lobbyist the year after I'm done here and have \$200,000 in my campaign account and give money to people running for the Legislature as my new job as a lobbyist. I'm going to have to ask Frank Daley, but that doesn't sound right to me. [LB792]

SENATOR KUEHN: I think that's a question best addressed to him as he can give you the exact specifics and I don't want to misstate my understanding, so. [LB792]

SENATOR GROENE: Thank you. [LB792]

SENATOR KUEHN: You bet. [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: Thank you. Seeing no additional questions, thank you very much for bringing the bill before us, Senator Kuehn. [LB792]

SENATOR KUEHN: Thank you. [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: And we will proceed to proponent testimony to LB792. Proponents. Mr. Geis, welcome back to the Government Committee. [LB792]

GAVIN GEIS: Chairman Murante, members of the Government Committee, my name is Gavin Geis, G-a-v-i-n G-e-i-s, and I'm representing Common Cause Nebraska. We support LB792. As was mentioned by Senator Kuehn, 33 states have a revolving door bill in some form and a rough

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estimate of 33 states, that's about 200 million people in America that just see this as how government works. Now, sometimes as a Nebraska or a Unicameral sometimes it's good being weird, sometimes it means we're just behind the times. And I think this is a case where we're just missing the boat, especially when it comes to the provision regarding legislators, elected officials. I want to give you one example from our past year in Nebraska where this happened and just made many voters feel like they were used. Two thousand seven, Senator Don Pederson, term limited, before he was term limited, was the Chair of the Appropriations Committee. And during his time as the Chair worked to buy the Assurity Building that was across from the Capitol, worked to find the money to create the agreement to buy that building. He was term limited, before that actually happened, was then immediately hired by Assurity to lobby to make that bill...to court that bill through the committee process, through the floor and eventually to passage. Now I'm not commenting on whether that's a good purchase or not; it probably is for the state of Nebraska. But I don't think it's a stretch to say that a lot of the people, or at least some of the people that he once represented, people who voted for him, walked away from that feeling used. Felt like Pederson just used that as a stepping stool to something else. Now I don't know if that's true. I don't know if he did or not, but at the end of the day voters probably felt used. And we, in a representative democracy, should be trying to stay away from that as much as possible. Voters aren't tools for the benefit of officials. Okay. A couple of other points. Representatives are elected by the public and any influence they receive during their service belongs to the people they represent, not themselves. Now this bill wouldn't stop them from...wouldn't stop representatives from using the contacts during their time. They can get a lot of jobs. But all it does is prevent them from using that influence they received that was given to them by the voters, to use that influence to turn around and lobby. I don't think the members of the Government Committee would actually disagree with me here, that there's more value to your seats than future employment. There's more value and there's more importance to the role you're serving than your job in the future. LB792 simply puts that sentiment into law by drawing a bright line between when the individuals are elected representatives of the people, representing their constituents, and when they're an individual representing themselves and lobbying. One last thing I would like to suggest in addition to the bill. Let's see, line 18, second page, in Common Cause we've discussed this. And the line there says, the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska shall be a lobbyist until at least two years. I would have the word compensated before lobbyist. In Nebraska, we have compensated and uncompensated lobbyists. We have lobbyists

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who make money, lobbyists who are doing it, not for the making money, just because they want to come and represent an issue. And I think we need passionate people in Nebraska representing issues they care about coming and speaking to their legislators. And if they just so happen to be a former legislator, I don't think we should stop them from coming and speaking before the lobby. The real problem lies when voters see them turning around and making a buck based on the position they were given by those voters. So if we change it to say, just compensated, then that means if you care about something deeply and want to come back and talk about that issue, nothing to stop you. Thank you. [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: Thank you, Mr. Geis. Senator Larson, then Groene, then Bloomfield. [LB792]

SENATOR LARSON: How do you feel about term limits, or Common Cause? [LB792]

GAVIN GEIS: We...completely neutral on term limits. They're 50-50. We could talk more about it, but 50-50. It's tough. [LB792]

SENATOR LARSON: Okay. So I just wanted to (inaudible) my first question in terms of what you guys felt on term limits. [LB792]

GAVIN GEIS: It may actually make us a little more important even, because people don't stay around forever (inaudible) forced out. [LB792]

SENATOR LARSON: I guess my point is, is I kind of feel the same way about term limits as I do this. And I know you guys are probably very strong proponents of our federal Constitution and the right to free speech is kind of where I draw the line on a lot of things. And I disagree with term limits on that simple basis. And I would disagree with this concept on the same. I should be able to...not only should I be able to represent myself at any time, for the state to say that I should not be able to do that is wrong, I believe, and as well as earn a living in any way that I see fit. It violates my speech. So I guess...do you feel that this violates speech by not being able to, in the purest form of the word, not being able to practice that speech in any way that you

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want and essentially be compensated for that if that is the choice of speech that you prefer?
[LB792]

GAVIN GEIS: Let me just say one thing. There are a lot of ways we put limitations on speech. We do not have an absolute, 100 percent, open, abroad discussion of speech. [LB792]

SENATOR LARSON: No, no. I understand. You can't yell, fire, in a crowded building. I get that because that's more of a public safety issue. So if you want to try to use that argument, you can try to walk down to how this violates public safety. There's a difference between violating public safety and public...we could hear...as public trust. So I understand that the Supreme Court has ruled on that. So...but...you don't feel like this violates one's ability to...of speech or to earn a living or anything of that... [LB792]

GAVIN GEIS: We'd have to look at court cases, but I would imagine there's a difference between earning a living and voicing your opinion. That's why I would like to add the compensated lobbyist, so that if you have an opinion and you want to share that, that didn't stop you. But earning a living is a different thing. They are different legal standards, I'm sure, and we should look at it. It's something to talk about. [LB792]

SENATOR LARSON: All right. [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: Senator Groene. [LB792]

SENATOR GROENE: On the compensated or not compensated, really, would it make a difference, because if an ex-senator comes down here and wants to do something for a meatpacking plant or something--I'm not picking on anybody, but it's just something still on my mind--and didn't get paid and said, you come to this huge dinner with me and I'll be there and I'll be the guest speaker and I want you to support this bill and I'm not getting paid, and he still has that campaign cash. I mean, what's the difference? [LB792]

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GAVIN GEIS: In many ways, there isn't a difference. But at the same time, the suggestion was more as a respect to the legislators who care about issues. But either way, I think this is an important piece of legislation. [LB792]

SENATOR GROENE: What's the definition in your term of...in statute about a lobbyist? So I'm term limited out and I don't like cigarettes. And I want to come down someday and say, you know, you guys ought to pass that bill on cigarettes. Am I officially a lobbyist because I'm going office to office or is it the lobbyist standing outside the glass? Legally, what's the definition? Do you know? I'm sure he does. [LB792]

GAVIN GEIS: Yeah. Wait for Frank Daley for the best definition. I can give you a roundabout, but Frank's got the best. [LB792]

SENATOR GROENE: All right. Thank you. [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: Senator Bloomfield. [LB792]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: Thank you. You talked about steppingstones. I'm going to throw the names out here now. Brad Ashford went to the U.S. House. This was a steppingstone. Would he have been allowed to run for the House? Jeremy Nordquist moved from here to a well-paid job working for Congressman Ashford. Should he have been allowed to do that? This was a steppingstone to that. [LB792]

GAVIN GEIS: My only point would be that this isn't a bar on all steppingstones. This isn't a bar on discouraging any contact with the people you worked with or talked with in office. This is simply about turning around, coming back, and lobbying those people you worked with and knew. So not all steppingstones are even close to banned by this bill. [LB792]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: If you are...in my mind, this bill is picking and choosing winners. I had become a little bit interested in motorcycle helmets, but I can't come back next year and talk about motorcycle helmets if I want to and try to influence the person that took my place if somebody would happen to want to buy me a dinner while I'm here, under this? [LB792]

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GAVIN GEIS: If you were being compensated to come back and talk about those helmets, yes. Under my change, yes, if you just care about that issue. [LB792]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: I wouldn't be able to do that. But it's perfectly all right for Congressman Ashford to go further and talk about everything that he wants to do and be compensated. (Inaudible.) [LB792]

GAVIN GEIS: Get elected as Governor, Senator Bloomfield. I would encourage you to run for office for the office of Governor. Keep moving. [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: I don't think anyone's ever said that before. [LB792]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: I think that was his polite way of saying, get the heck out of here. [LB792]

SENATOR GARRETT: "Rots a ruck." [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: Senator Garrett. [LB792]

SENATOR GARRETT: Thank you, Senator Murante. I fundamentally have...I guess for me it all comes down to accountability. And if my constituents feel that I've sold out to any lobbyist or any special interest group, they're going to throw the rascal out; as well they should. So I just...I fundamentally have a problem with the government telling people what they can and cannot do as far as employment is concerned. And I've always said, the thing that upsets me I guess most is when there's a corrupt politician or a corrupt law enforcement person, because fundamentally our society, our government is based on that. And so I take that very seriously and, boy, it's all about accountability. And I just, boy, I just would hate to give up on that...not be able to tap that expertise of a former senator. You know, there's a certain senator that's working in one of the state offices here. He's a great font of knowledge. That kind of experience is so hard to get and whether it be a Lieutenant Governor, an Attorney General, a Secretary of State, a former legislator, they know the issues. And to me, it's all about tapping that expertise. And, again, accountability is all important. Constituents hold us accountable, unlike Senator Larson, as far as

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even the term limits. We have term limits, it's called elections. But holding people...holding legislators accountable, holding everybody accountable, so anyway, just not so much a question as just kind of voicing an opinion. [LB792]

GAVIN GEIS: (Inaudible) understood. Thank you. [LB792]

SENATOR GARRETT: Okay. [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: Seeing no additional questions, thank you very much for coming down today. Appreciate it. [LB792]

GAVIN GEIS: Thank you. [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: Additional proponent testimony to LB792. Are there any additional proponents? Are there any opponents to LB792? Is there any neutral testimony? Mr. Daley, welcome back to the Government Committee. [LB792]

FRANK DALEY: Thank you very much, Chairman Murante and members of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. My name is Frank Daley, D-a-l-e-y, I serve as the Executive Director of the Accountability and Disclosure Commission. I'm appearing today in a neutral capacity. The commission has not taken a position on the main object of this bill, that is post-office holding and post-public position employment restrictions. We did simply want to urge that if you decide to move forward with this bill, that you do so with the amendment that was proposed by Senator Kuehn. The amendment provides a much more clear definition of who in the public employment area is covered by the bill. But as long as I'm here, perhaps I could answer a couple of questions that popped up. Senator Groene asked, what can I do with my campaign funds when I'm out of office? And the answer is that you can keep your campaign funds as long as you'd like, but you're still restricted on how you use them. So, generally speaking, one candidate committee cannot give money to another candidate committee. And there are two exceptions to that. The first is that you can buy tickets to a fund-raising event of another candidate committee, though the rationale there is that you're going there for your own political purposes to meet the people you need to meet for your own campaign. Nevertheless, the

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statute says you can use it for that purpose. The other thing you can do is you can give money to another candidate committee at the time you are dissolving your own candidate committee. So you probably don't have a perpetual fund there to continually hold fund-raising events. The second thing I want to address, I think it was Senator Bloomfield's question about who is a lobbyist and who does this apply to? A lobbyist is someone who is trying to affect matters before the Legislature in a representative capacity. That is, they're acting on behalf of another person or an organization or something of that nature. So to the extent that you wanted to come back and wanted to talk about motorcycle helmets and you're acting on behalf of yourself, even under the bill you wouldn't be restricted from doing so. Lobbying by definition in our state is trying to affect matters before the Legislature in a representative capacity. So other than that, that's all I have to say. Thanks very much for the opportunity to testify. [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: Senator Groene has a question. [LB792]

SENATOR GROENE: So if you just took to compensated...put compensated in there, if somebody called me up after I'm term limited said, you know, you were passionate about this. Would you come down and talk to the fellow senators? Am I a lobbyist because I was asked to do it? [LB792]

FRANK DALEY: If you are acting in a representative capacity, the answer is yes. [LB792]

SENATOR GROENE: And then a lobbyist goes from office to office not outside the...and also outside the... [LB792]

FRANK DALEY: Correct. Now, having said that, some of the exemptions from registering as a lobbyist if you appear in a hearing such as this and identify who you are and who you're representing, that by itself does not trigger a registration requirement. Or if you simply supply written information to a member of the Legislature, that doesn't trigger a registration requirement. However, if you go beyond that, you're going from office to office talking to senators and you're doing it on behalf of someone else, either another person or another organization, then that triggers the obligation to register as a lobbyist, compensated or not. [LB792]

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SENATOR GROENE: Have you ever seen where you thought somebody got some legislation passed in the last year or two they were there and then were hired later by that company as if almost like this was payola later on to what you did earlier? Ever noticed that? [LB792]

FRANK DALEY: There would be a lot of speculation in my answer. And I hate to speculate about situations like that in a public forum such as this. [LB792]

SENATOR GROENE: Okay. Well, thank you. [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: Okay. Any final questions? Seeing none, thank you very much for your testimony. Appreciate it. [LB792]

FRANK DALEY: Thank you, Senator. [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: Additional neutral testimony to LB792. Any additional neutral testimony? Seeing none, Senator Kuehn. [LB792]

SENATOR KUEHN: Thank you, Chairman. And thank you, colleagues, for the discussion and the questions today. Just wanted to close quickly and then give you an opportunity to answer any additional questions you may have. I think one of the issues that in the term limited environment that we need to think about and address, which I think Senator Bloomfield brought up in a very important fashion and very poignantly is the concept of what we do to maintain our institutional knowledge and our institutional memory, knowing that we do have a finite span of eight years. We have someone who has spent their career in this body working on an issue, we need to think about and be reflective of how we can utilize that information and capitalize upon it and build upon that work for successors as well as for the body as a whole. And so I think part of that comes with a better clarity for our colleagues who may be leaving office as to what constitutes lobbying and what doesn't. I appreciate the clarity on the term that it is in a representative capacity. I think we certainly should be more mindful about how we engage our colleagues who have left office to come back and assist us on an individual basis with their expertise and even how we transition materials. I'm guessing, Senator Bloomfield, you have boxes or however you may file electronic copies, of information that's relevant to anyone who would want to address

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any type of restraint, whether that's a helmet or other legislation. And how we transition that within the body and maintain that institutional memory, knowing that we physically only have an eight-year maximum presence here, I think is something we need to discuss as well. So certainly, there's nothing in this that would certainly be in my intent to stop that passage of information as part of our responsibility as legislators. Questions? I'm happy to answer (inaudible). [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: We have a couple. I'll have just one. Your bill is narrowly tailored to just apply to state government. I'm wondering if you had a reason for excluding, say, city councilmembers from becoming either lobbyists for their city or a lobbyist for League of Municipalities, county board members, so on and so forth. [LB792]

SENATOR KUEHN: Yeah. For this first run of this kind of legislation, focusing primarily on the state level, but I think that there is additional challenges associated with city lobbying and local elected officials. Just wanted to stay as narrowly focused and keep the discussion on this particular legislation at this time as specific as possible. I think there's a lot of other issues, certainly. When you go into the federal system...when Congressman Ashford entered office, he knew going in that he would be restricted from lobbying. Former Senator Nordquist knows when he takes a job as chief of staff, that he will not be able to lobby for a year after. I think there's also questions about when you leave the federal system from a state delegation whether or not you can lobby back in that state again. And so, again, there's lots of challenges with those rules, so just trying to stay as specific as possible with this particular piece of legislation. [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: Okay. Senator Bloomfield. [LB792]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: Thank you. Did you just tell me I could sell my folder full of stuff to eBay for \$20,000? [LB792]

SENATOR KUEHN: I don't want you to...I did not say you could sell it. I said, I think that passing that along would be very helpful. [LB792]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: I just thought I'd ask. [LB792]

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SENATOR KUEHN: Although what happens to it should it appear on eBay is up to you. Or what's the new app, it's not eBay, there's another one where you can just do it quickly. [LB792]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: I have no idea. [LB792]

SENATOR KUEHN: If we see a large series of boxes on eBay with an anonymous e-mail address I think we'll know where to look. [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: All right. Seeing nothing else, thank you very much. [LB792]

SENATOR KUEHN: Thank you very much, colleagues. Have a good afternoon. [LB792]

SENATOR MURANTE: Thank you. And that closes the hearing on LB792. We will proceed to the next item on the agenda, LB1024. Senator Tyson Larson of O'Neill, Nebraska. Welcome back to your committee on Government, Military and Veterans Affairs. [LB792 LB1024]