



# Authier·Miller·Pape Eyecare Consultants

Dear Senator Nelson,

I am writing this on behalf of Norfolk's Faith Regional Health Services (FRHS) in support of their request for federal appropriations for the fiscal 2010 year. This money would be used to help purchase, install and maintain technology that would allow FRHS to provide rural healthcare facilities access to their network. This is a crucial step in providing the rural Nebraskan with a quality of healthcare that is more obtainable in urban areas, but that all Nebraskans deserve. Having grown up in this state and lived in places ranging in size from Gothenburg to Omaha, and currently serving 3 communities with my optometric practice (Norfolk, Pierce and Randolph), I know first-hand the disadvantages that our rural areas face. In the past FRHS has always been the standard bearer for healthcare in Northeast Nebraska and this is just one more example of their commitment to the people of this area.

As a state with a large geographic area and decentralized population, Nebraska has always had to overcome some inherent difficulties not the least of which is communication. As you have served the people of this state over the years I am sure you are as amazed as I am at the advantages that new technology has provided you in keeping up with your constituents. Things like Email, texting, and facebook, have all made your contact with the people that much more consistent and accessible. FRHS wants to do the same for the healthcare facilities of Northeast Nebraska in an effort to provide residents with the quality service they all deserve. They want to provide these rural facilities with access to advanced imaging and immediate medical histories and testing. Unfortunately these new technologies come with a heavy price tag. FRHS has already committed \$10 million to electronic health record implementation but more will be needed to provide rural access, and that is where I and the residents of Northeast Nebraska need your help.

Any assistance you can provide FRHS in their pursuit of securing congressional funds for this noble project would be greatly appreciated. I know you hear about many "noble" projects on a daily basis but I truly believe this one is a difference maker, and I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeff Pape O.D.

**Rick Authier, O.D.**  
*Retired Founder*

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*Optical Manager*

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