



---

To print: Select **File** and then **Print** from your browser's menu.

This story was printed from **Nebraska StatePaper.com**.

Site URL: <http://nebraska.statepaper.com>.

---



## Actor Martin Sheen (he's the dad) Praises Nelson For Support of Drug Courts

April 01, 2011

Martin Sheen (left) and Nelson.

**Award-winning actor Martin Sheen said some nice things about Nebraska Sen. Ben Nelson before testifying at a congressional briefing in support of continued funding for**

**drug courts.**

Nelson is a supporter of drugs courts, saying they save millions of taxpayer dollars in Nebraska, reduce illegal drug use and dramatically drive down crime.

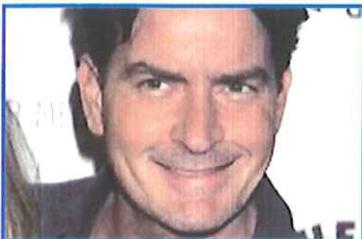
Sheen is the father of actor Charlie Sheen, whose drug problems and subsequent bizarre behavior have made international headlines. He did not mention his son by name in his meeting with Nelson, or in remarks before lawmakers during the briefing.

Republicans have proposed tremendous reductions in funding for drug courts.

"Thank you for your leadership as one of the first champions for drug courts," Martin Sheen told Nelson. "Your vision in Nebraska helped prove that this alternative works and made it easier for other states to establish their own Drug Courts."

Nelson is a former two-term governor. His office said that, as governor, he supported establishment of the state's first drug court in Omaha in 1997. Twenty-three drug courts now operate in Nebraska.

He said "drug courts have been the most cost-effective strategy for reducing criminal recidivism. Studies show that every \$1 spent on Drug Courts ends up saving as much as \$27 on re-arrests, law enforcement, court hearings, prison beds, and the cost to crime victims."



Charlie.

---

In his statement at the formal briefing, Martin Sheen said:

"I saw someone near and very dear to us self-destructing in the grip of drug and alcohol abuse," Martin Sheen said in 2007. "At a critical point, I had to decide who would speak at the funeral, who should carry the casket."

"That's where you go, and you have to be prepared to say, 'I did everything that I possibly could,'" said Sheen. "Well, I had not yet. I had one more option, and that was drug court. That's what saved his life and mine."

In a news release, Nelson said Nebraska drug courts "are a success story proven to restore lives and reunite families, while also reducing government spending. Drug courts help addicts break the cycle of drugs and crime to become productive members of society. I've met Nebraskans who have completed these programs and see their pride in staying free of drugs for four, five or 10 years – or more. Drug courts helped them get their lives back together, get honest jobs, and reconcile with their families."

"With a successful track record of holding non-violent offenders accountable for their actions and getting them the help they need to break their addictions, drug courts have been the most cost-effective strategy for reducing criminal recidivism. Studies show that every \$1 spent on Drug Courts ends up saving as much as \$27 on re-arrests, law enforcement, court hearings, prison beds, and the cost to crime victims."

**Note:** Most newer browsers don't need a print-friendly version of this article. Just click **File**, then **Print** from your browser's menu at the previous page.