

about the need to have this in Nebraska as soon as possible. It makes a lot of us very nervous, I guess, to look at this map and realize that Nebraska stands alone in such a wide area of the nation to be without registration of sex offenders. And I think, I think most of you, if you would talk to people within your district, would be, first, amazed that we haven't done something in this area and, second, very supportive to do something and do it as soon as possible in these areas. The Abboud amendment really is a very comprehensive amendment, taking into the considerations that were raised during the hearing, during, during the whole process, I guess you could say, that we've all been involved in it, and kind of addresses a lot of the different concerns of people who were involved in the issue. And I would, I would ask for your support of this amendment and the bill, and to get this done in a timely manner, not only to comply with the federal law that we have to comply with by 1997, and this will be our last opportunity before 1997 to have that compliance, but also in a timely manner because I think that most of the people in the state of Nebraska would agree, if not all, that this needs to be done and it needs to be done as soon as possible. So I urge your support for the Abboud amendment and eventually the bill through the whole process. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Pedersen, followed by Senators Chambers and Abboud.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I don't always agree just because the state of Nebraska doesn't have something that we need to have it, but in this case, this is mandatory. We need to do something in which, like Senator Witek said, it's a surprise to me, last year when it came up and the year before when studied a little bit that we haven't done something long before now. This is something we have to do. I support the amendment. I support the bill "full-heartedly" and I thank Senator Witek for making it a priority bill so we can get it done this year. I belong to a couple of national organizations, one of them called Believe the Children, and when I was talking to some of them people a few weeks ago and said, you know, are you going to support a bill out there ever to, you know, register sex offenders? And I said, we have one up this year, thank God, and, and I'm hoping we're going to pass it. Like Senator Witek and Senator Abboud, all the people that signed on to it, I don't know that we need to take much time on