

sweet teachers that my children had in elementary school and that I had in elementary school and the thought of them having to go through a fingerprinting and a criminal record check is just abhorrent to me. What is it about this that necessitated the introduction of this bill?

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, you know, I had those same sweet teachers and so did my children. We've also had some that weren't so sweet and we want to get those that have fallen through the crack.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I understand that, but why we can't do that now?

SENATOR DIERKS: We don't.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Why can't we do that without this bill?

SENATOR DIERKS: Because it is not mandatory.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: But do we have...I mean, do we have to make it mandatory? Can't, through the interview process, for instance, that every teacher goes through, through the references that are provided by those teachers, through, you know, through a normal school system's careful analysis of each candidate, if there is something that raises a flag, can't they do that background check now? I mean...

SENATOR DIERKS: It hasn't worked. I think that they can do a background check but they haven't. If it is mandatory, it will be done and it is...like I said before, we're not talking about all those sweet little old teachers who are currently teaching, we're talking about right now those who will be coming into the system and then we'll have this for those that come in after that so that eventually the entire teaching body will have been through a verification.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, Senator Dierks, I like to think that we have some really nice people coming into the profession too and I just can't imagine how uncomfortable or even horrified some of these young people who have led faultless lives, if you will, will be when they discover that they are going to have to through this process. That's what rubs me the wrong way, I guess, about this bill even though I really think what you're reaching for is the right thing and that we need to have some