

with.

SENATOR DIERKS: That's right.

SENATOR HORGAN: Well, I think there is some merit in this bill and I think we do have perhaps potential for a problem out there, and I think it's important that parents know that when they send their child to school that they are going to be taught by someone who is responsible and has a good background and does not have a criminal background, but I'm concerned about several of the provisions of this bill not the least of which is the different treatment of certificated professionals within the school district and the noncertificated contract employees. I mean, I would be more concerned about the history and background of a bus driver who is driving my kid all across the City of Omaha and whether or not he has a bad driving record or a history of drug abuse than I really am concerned about a teacher in the classroom who is only really with my child, hopefully, in a group setting. I have a problem with that. If we have teachers who we're trying to put on the same level and should be, I think, put on the same level of any other professional, a doctor or a lawyer or a clergyman, for us to single out the teachers and to say you are mandated by state law to have this fingerprinted background check, I think it just sends a bad message. I think that the attempt that is being made in the law is a good one. You know, we want to make sure that those people dealing with our children are good people.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR HORGAN: But I do think we send a bad message. I mean, you can't be an attorney in the State of Nebraska if you have felony convictions but somehow we're able to live with that situation without going through this fingerprint background. I don't know how we are successfully able to do that and we're not successfully able to investigate teachers and I'm troubled by the fact that we're mandating this on the school districts. It is costing us a lot of money and I think it is a requirement that perhaps...I think we may be hitting this problem with a sledge hammer and I think there are other alternatives out there that we ought to be perhaps looking at and I think that is something we ought to investigate. But I think this sends a very bad message to professionals when we treat them differently than we do other professionals and, as a matter of fact, we hold you to a different standard than we do the person that is