

right now and that is a huge lawsuit against the school district because the parents of that child said why didn't you check out this individual? And because of the damage, the severe psychological damage that has occurred to this child we are demanding some sort of retribution and that is what the school boards are concerned about, the huge liability that is out there. And I guess that's why the Omaha Board of Education said let's pass this legislation. That's why the Nebraska State School Boards Association said let's pass this legislation. We don't have any problems. Maybe these people have changed. Maybe they have become good citizens in society, but we're facing huge liability out there because of this and if we make that decision to hire that individual with that criminal background, that will be our decision and we will take on that liability. But don't ask us to continue to hire these people without given the tools to fully understand what these individuals' backgrounds are and that is why I am supporting the bill. Now the amendments that Senator Crosby is introducing, I...some I think are fine, some are problems. I think it is all meant to really harass the bill and to put on unneeded baggage,...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ABOUD: ...put on language that will probably see that the bill would not advance. I think we just ought to keep it simple. If they work for the school district, if they are an employee, they drive a bus, if they are a teacher, just let them have a background check. I guess I'm more surprised that the teachers would be opposed to the bill because it is their profession. I know, as a lawyer, if I had someone that had a problem, whatever that might be, criminal, whatever, I don't know if I would want that individual involved in the practice of law. But, you know, maybe that individual has changed. That is something for...everyone can change and I think that they are given that opportunity to be hired but there is such large liability out there for those school districts that they need some sort of protection and I believe that this bill will afford them...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR ABOUD: ...that type of protection. So I'm going to be opposing the amendments and voting for the advancement of the bill.