

hire somebody who has something in their past that does something to children? The two cases I have heard most prominently mentioned are the one that happened in Papillion and the one that happened in a bus driver's case, and even if Senator Chizek's amendment were agreed to or even if the bill as originally proposed was agreed to, neither of them would have been caught. Repeat that, neither of them would have been found because they were not previous criminals. What we are doing, my friends, is taking a very small step beyond the line of saying to people we have so much concern for safety that we are going to cross the line and you prove your innocence first. Prove your innocence first, and prove you are worthy of employment, then we will hire. A very dangerous step, albeit worthless in this case, because they are not going to do away with the fingerprint requirement.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: I wanted to answer a few of the questions that Senator Bernard-Stevens was asking. As far as the background checks, there are other agencies in Nebraska that require...that are required to have a background check. Among them are bar owners and private detectives and private detective agencies, and I guess it is my contention that I would just as soon have our children be protected by people having a background check as I would our bar patrons. We...the statement that the bill would be moot is not true because we have removed at this point with this amendment the fingerprinting requirement, and we also have been in touch with the people in Washington, D.C., Senator Bernard-Stevens, and they have told us that it is very possible that this will be on the docket. So I just have to counter some of those things. You should know that there are other states that require this background check for teachers. It isn't something new in Nebraska. It is happening in 22 other states. I was in conversation with the superintendent from Sutherland, Nebraska, last weekend, and he informed me that in updating his, what do you call it, his document, his resume, that he had to undergo a background check in Colorado, for instance. Now if Colorado does it, it can't be all that bad. I think the other states that are doing it are Florida, California, Nevada, New York, Maryland, Virginia, Oklahoma, Illinois, New Jersey, South Carolina, Georgia, Utah, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania. So it is happening. It isn't something that's new. A question about liability, I think that it is my impression that each of these