

of all professionals, the lawyers and doctors and nurses. You know, when I go into a hospital and I am treated by a nurse, I think I ought to have an opportunity to have some confidence that that nurse hasn't been involved in drugs or other activities in the past. And perhaps that is something we need to look at. It is a little bit unfortunate, perhaps, that teachers are being singled out as the first profession, but on the other hand, I think you can make an argument that teachers are often held up to a higher standard than other people in society are, and, historically, that has been true and perhaps it continues to be true today, and it is important that we treat our teachers with respect and that we treat them with the honor that they are entitled to, and I think what Senator Chizek does is reasonable. The Omaha School District can now do a background check. They can check wherever you have lived and given them addresses for where you are. This bill, if the FBI will allow the background checks without the fingerprints, will allow you to do a national search, to do a more complete search, and I think I can support that. But, also, the enabling legislation that says that they can do it for other employees, such as, bus drivers is an important element because I think we do have some potential problems out there with out students who are riding on buses for several hours a day in some instances in this state, and we ought to know what their background is. And I think it is an amendment and an agreement that we can come to consensus on and I intend to support it. I would give the rest of my time to Senator Chizek, if he would like it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Chizek, you have about two minutes.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Thank you, Senator Horgan, and members. Senator David Bernard-Stevens was, when he talked about talking to the FBI, he was right. We talked to them also, but what you must understand is what they are doing is not a rule, it is not a regulation. It is my understanding it is a letter. It is a letter from an advisory group. Now as I pointed out to David that there is a real good possibility we might have a new Attorney General next year. So I think a lot of these things could change, and with our delegation, I think we can make some requests that they do it. They do it in other areas. And I think what we are dealing with is something that is serious enough, Senator Horgan talked about none of us want to single out teachers or...that is not what we are trying to single out. Again, we have talked about balancing the rights with protection of children. Now I think this bill has been...