

many references to criminal records, medical records. These are two entirely different things. Criminal records are public records, medical records are confidential. There is no way you can access them. We do with this legislation, of course, with the amendment that has been adopted this morning, remove fingerprints from the bill, so that you don't have to...the teachers do not have to be fingerprinted to accomplish the requirements of the legislation. They will, of course, if the school districts elect, be subject to the legislation and they would have to go through a background check. Background check at this point without this legislation is strictly jurisdictional. It goes from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and it requires, like Senator Horgan suggested, a method of going from one courthouse to the other and it is not a streamlined or efficient method of doing it. So with the legislation we provide some efficiency to the process and we do help provide for the safety of our children in the school and the school places. The check is done not only on teachers, it is also done on noncertified personnel. It requires a check by...we'll say bus drivers, cooks, secretaries, teachers aides, anybody who works for a contractor working for the school whether it is a building contractor. If the school district feels like they need to check on those people, they have the opportunity and the authority to do that, but it is not mandatory. It is what we call permissive because in many cases the people that are coming to work there are people who are known by the community and they are not questionable. The questionable ones are those new employees that come from some other state or come from some other jurisdiction that we don't even know about. These are the people that we think it should be necessary to check on. Now a school teacher who is in the system currently teaching is not subject to the law unless they have moved to another state or come from a different, come here from a different state. So I think we've taken the objections to the bill out and I think we have a bill that is reasonable that will provide some of the safety we want for children in the work place. I'd like to remind you that there are 22 other states in the nation that do this. It isn't new legislation for Nebraska. It is being done and I think that it is a wise choice for us. I think we need to do this not only to help our children, but also to provide security for our teachers and for noncertified personnel. I thank you for your support and I urge your acceptance of the legislation and advancing it on to Select File.

SPEAKER PAACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. You've heard Senator