

or an accountant or an investment counsellor whatsoever. If you want to...the reason you want detailed disclosure of this information is because there have been such repeated abuses and repeated exploitation of individual athletes who do not have the training or the experience in investigating to determine the credentials and qualifications of persons representing them. If you look at other professional...when I applied for my...become a member of the Bar Association I can tell you I had to provide significantly detailed information along with professional references along with the transcript, along with an indication of my graduations from an accredited law school. There were a lot of things because the profession of law is a trusted profession. It is one where you want to at least do the best you can to keep out persons with questionable, ethical or moral backgrounds. It is a very thorough one. We also do the same type of thing, I think, with accountants, with stockbrokers. I know they have a very detailed certification procedure. There is no certification procedure for sports agents, so one of the ways to try to address it is to, in fact, have them provide that necessary information.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR McFARLAND: What has happened on occasion is that the sports agents who will be represented by, and backed financially, by someone who is fairly unscrupulous and someone who is fairly well-known, will come out and say that they want to represent the athlete and the athlete is not aware that the real persons behind the representation are the persons in the background who control the company through their financial and business interests. Just in closing, it is to protect the athletes. The idea is that some athletes are exploited by sports agents. I think you've all read the newspapers and the sporting magazines to know how that occurs and that this bill is an attempt to address that problem. I can tell you some of the athletes in Nebraska have been able to take advantage of these similar types of statutes in other jurisdictions in order to void representation agreements where they have been taken advantage of of sports agents. In the Mike Rozier case it was fortunate that California had an act somewhat like this because Mike Rozier could take that agent to California and say, look, you violated the California Sports Agent Act, unless you return a significant amount of the 13 percent in fees that you charged me I'm going to sue you and, in fact, that agent was forced to return a significant amount of those fees...