

people speaking in very strong vehement opposition to the bill, representing the Nebraska State Education Association. We had a meeting in my office with Senator Barrett and representatives of the Professional Practices Commission, the Department of Education and the NSEA. All parties indicated that they...all parties who attended that meeting indicated that with the adoption of the committee amendment that the outside opposition to the bill would be removed. That is not to indicate that there may not be individuals inside the body who have some individual expertise on the bill who still have problems with the bill. I am not trying to represent that fact at all but feel it fair to say I visited with the NSEA as early as this morning and they are feeling comfortable with the bill advancing if the committee amendments are adopted. The bill deals with the ability of citizens to pursue complaints against teachers, based on violations of the Professional Practices Code. In this case we're talking about types of offenses that by which a teacher should lose their teaching certificate, their ticket to practice their profession. Obviously, that's a very emotional sort of area. The bill is designed to allow the Department of Education to be in a prosecutor role in these types of offenses. Currently, current statute that the individual is usually a parent or perhaps a student or a private citizen who is filing a complaint not only has to file that complaint they also have to prosecute that complaint. The NSEA, obviously, was very concerned about...about whether this would lead to an increase in trivial sorts of complaints filed. Their...when we...in the discussion we got down to their basic concern was this laundry list on the bottom of page 2 of the grounds by which complaints could be filed and prosecuted. That laundry list would then have led to, they felt, a listing...a creation of rules and regulations that may have allowed for very trivial sorts of complaints being filed and, in fact, prosecuted. The language "incompetence, immorality, intemperance, cruelty, crime against laws of the state, neglect of duty, general neglect of the business of the school, unprofessional conduct, physical or medical incapacity or breach of contract for teaching or administrative services, they felt invited a very...a set of rules and regulations that would result in very trivial sorts of offenses, I mean, literally even that they weren't keeping lesson plans, as Senator Bernard-Stevens never ever did, I will tell you that. He was the worst as far as filing lesson plans were concerned, next only to his department chairman who didn't do a very good job of filing lesson plans either; things along that line that might make it...might lead to a violation. So