

the State Board of Education, I'm not sure it's all that clear cut about what type of complaints will be limited through this process and I raise that reservation and I think it needs to be further addressed and further studied and I may raise it again.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm pleased to rise in support of LB 575. When it first came to the Education Committee because of it's initial origins I had some doubts because, as most of you know, I am an advocate for teachers and I think teachers need protection and other safeguards in our statutes so that we don't harass them and don't have a lot of frivolous lawsuits just because a student is upset about a grade and so on. So I'm very pleased that NSEA representatives and Senator Barrett and Senator Withem that they got together and got the amendments straightened out. But what I would like to say, quickly, is this to start with. Dentists, lawyers and doctors, within their own organizational professional membership have mechanisms for unprofessional conduct complaints and that kind of thing and, in a way, teachers do not. They have lawyers to represent them but within their own organization, except for professional...for the Professional Practices Commission, they don't have that kind of mechanism. So I do think this simplifies the mechanism with the Department of Education coming into the picture. What we're talking about this morning is child abuse and teachers are no different than other human beings. If there is someone who is taking advantage of a child in a sexual way or any other way, then that person needs to be weeded out and we need to see to it that they are not in contact with children. We all know that teachers spend a lot of time with children and I want the best teachers with those children and so do you. But, along with that, we need protection for the majority of our teachers who are ethical, have high moral standards and teach with integrity every day and want to do the best for those children. So I am pleased that the amendments straighten some of those things out and I will support LB 575. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Lynch, followed by Senator Withem.

SENATOR LYNCH: Question.

SENATOR LAMB: The question has been called. Do I see five