

test. If there is a difference, I will give you the balance of my time to explain the difference. And, two, give me the reason why it is that we have to use the NAEP test and is there a possibility that there would be another test that certain people would not find so offensive? And you can have the balance of my time to dance with those questions.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, thank you very much, Senator Moore. Yes, it would be possible to use another test and I think that will be a decision that the department will be making, along with this Advisory Board that this bill establishes which is charged with kind of charting our data collection policy in the state. The reason, I think, the department is looking at the NAEP test is because the NAEP test is, first of all, chartered by Congress of the United States. Its specific design is to recognize the problems in the current Wall Chart that we have. It is designed to get specific...some information that's comparable on a nationwide basis, that we could give everybody the Iowa basic test or the California test or one of the other tests, but the problem is that there is no test that is used on a nationwide basis to determine student achievement. The difference between an assessment test and an achievement test, frankly, Senator Moore, that escapes me. The NAEP test, I might also just point out to people, there has been a lot of concern that that test is not available to people. People in here that have taken the L...L...Law School Aptitude Test, the ACT test, the SAT test,...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...any of these other tests, would know that if you would ask them, if you could see a copy of that test before you took it, you'd probably get laughed out of the building. It's a test to test what students know about a given area and they just don't make those tests available. However, I do understand the Director of NAEP has made an offer to come to Nebraska with a copy of the test and not let people have that test but to allow people to come in and take a look at it to see that there is nothing sinister in it. The test is...the one that they're developing right now is a mathematics test to see how well students do in the area of mathematics. So your question was, can we use something other than a NAEP test? Sure, we can. At this point, the NAEP test is one that's being developed on a national basis to be the...kind of the state of the art for determining student achievement. Senator Moore, by the way, I punched my light when I thought I was taking maybe a