

separate campus under the umbrella of the Board of Regents and central administration now for a good number of years. I have not heard anyone throughout this process of debating the organizational structure of higher education in our state bring that into question. The consultants interviewed hundreds of people around Nebraska, had numerous hearings. The commission has met and discussed this numerous times and there was never anybody bringing up the fact that, hey, wouldn't it be a good idea if we were to put the Med Center back under the Lincoln campus and then have six institutions as opposed to the seven? I have not heard, until this was introduced as a bill, I have not heard anybody seriously propose this. I can't see any serious rationale for it. I don't understand why it's being adopted. It's one of those things where the bill has received a tremendous amount of scrutiny and you have read, I'm sure, many positive comments and many negative comments and I think the proposal, as it came forward, needs to stand or fall on its own. This proposal of putting the Med Center underneath the UN-L campus has received absolutely no scrutiny that I know of and I don't understand the rationale for it. So, using the rationale that until an individual can come up with a solid reason for a change, we ought not to make that change. I would urge you to oppose this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, please, followed by Senator McFarland and Senator Warner.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, I am... I rise to support this amendment and I do feel that there...whether or not the two campuses have been separated through the system, system-system, I don't think is relevant at the moment because you're talking about a whole new structure. So, from my point of view and from the point of view of having a strong research university, it's logical to me that the University of Nebraska here in Lincoln, the university, the original land grant university, which is still the research arm and the University of Nebraska Medical School is a joint venture, because of that one word "research". The medical research folds into all of the other research. It seems to me that if we are to have a comprehensive research university, it's just imperative that these two join together. There are other regional peers, the University of Kansas, the University of Missouri, the University of Oklahoma, that contain the two, the medical college in with the other part of the research campus. So I think that...I think most of you know I think the whole