

EduCable brings it to them live, gavel to gavel. So they are paying attention. I've gotten a lot of phone calls over the weekend and I saw people again who are saying that they do not like the concept of changing the structure and again we're saying, well, if this constitutional amendment passes, then we will do all these things. We need to talk about those things now so the voters know what's up on that horizon, what might happen if they pass that amendment. So, again, I will support this amendment and I will support it again if it comes up on the next bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator McFarland, would you like to close on the amendment?

SENATOR MCFARLAND: I had my light on, didn't I, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Yes, I just turned it off. This is your closing.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: It is, thank you. That would be fine. I have a couple comments and a couple responses. I think it is particularly appropriate that this amendment be considered on this particular bill because, as you know, a constitutional amendment, once it is in place, then the Legislature cannot just come into session and change it with a statutory change. Once you put something in as a constitutional provision, then it is something that, unless the voters of Nebraska approve a change, cannot be changed. And I think the concept of having UN-L and the UN Med Center under one board of trustees is such an important one that we should have it as a part of this constitutional amendment. The amendment we're dealing with, of course, while it does not mention specific boards of trustees, has a whole section on how the boards of trustees are going to be composed, how they're going to be appointed, what their membership will be, what their political affiliation will be and so on. Therefore, I think this amendment is applicable and appropriate to bring to this particular bill. And there are a number of reasons for it. I think that we should have some kind of constitutional provision that would state we are going to have a board of trustees and one president govern both UN-L and the Med Center. I have articulated a number of reasons for that. I think there are a couple that I would like to mention, and for those of you who have not read this rationale document that I have placed, I will just read a couple other reasons for it. It says it is important for Nebraska's comprehensive