

give my point of view on this. I wish I could say that the Franklin Committee is going to be able to...that something is going to come out or there is going to be prosecution of certain of these cases. I wish I was able to do that and be able to tell you that through our work we're going to be able to accomplish that. But I can't assure that. The one thing I am sure of is had not the Franklin Committee been formed, and had not the Franklin Committee pursued this case nothing would have happened, absolutely nothing. And I think Senator Chambers characterizes very well, you know, under the best scenario of it was negligence on the part of many of the people who are supposed to prosecute these cases and delve into the investigation of these cases. That's the best scenario that is out there. The worse scenario that is out there is that they deliberately did that, that they deliberately did not follow up on the material that was available to them. So I think that I have some problems with this legislation, to be very frank with you. I am not a person that particularly cares to offer legislation in a reactive mode, to react to one particular situation and offer legislation to try and deal with that particular situation. I would much rather have pro-active kind of legislation, that we deal with things in advance. But, in this case, I have to say that my bottom line in this case, is that the Franklin issue is so important to us as a Legislature, and so important to Nebraska as a state that I think we need to do this legislation. But I also think that we need to be very wary, as we do this kind of legislation, looking to the future to see what kind of consequences this might have that are unforeseen as we do this. And once the Franklin thing is over, we need to reassess and say is this something that we want to remain in our statutes, or is there the possibility of mischief with this kind of thing? I think that what the Franklin case has done is it has offered an opportunity in this state to take a look at child and sexual abuse as we have never done in the past, and that I think some people have been afraid to do. And I know that as a member of that committee I have learned so much about this issue and so much about how hard it is to prosecute those kinds of cases, how difficult it is for attorneys to do that. And I think that as more and more of us become aware of that, and as the public becomes aware of that, we are going to do the kinds of things statutorily that are going to make it so that we can prosecute those cases. Whether this is the right thing to do, I'm not sure. But I certainly would urge the body to advance this bill and to go forward with this, because I think the work of the Franklin committee needs to go forward. I