

good as we want it to be. I would think if you're a competent teacher at any level, K through 12, or university level as well, college level as well, you would like to have some kind of security. I'm sure you're all aware that in the systems we have in postsecondary education in Nebraska now the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center, in Omaha, they're part of the university system, but they have no bargaining units. Kearney, University of Nebraska at Kearney, and the University of Nebraska-Omaha both have bargaining units. So there is a difference. And they, in fact, get involved with these kinds of...these kinds of circumstances. With or without a bargaining unit, it's important for us, though, hold the phone a bit. With or without a bargaining unit it's important to have some kind of standards developed because, you see in the absence of a bargaining unit, teachers should not just be fair game, nor should anybody who works for anyone else. The standards are in there, not because of any bargaining units, but because it's fair, and because it's the right thing to do. You don't have to go through any hoops to fire anybody. There's a lot of good reasons you can do that, competence is obviously one of those. I have to take exception, some exception to my good friend, Senator Nelson, though, when she used the term greed not need. I just can't help then to refer back to the old Syracuse report that says, in fact if you talk to administrators that mention how this is, in fact, a terrible problem, and maybe teachers are greedy, that maybe administrators have some kind of a problem as well, because the Syracuse study says, and I quote, "Thus this experiment can be said to cut the cost of educating students in Nebraska by \$555 a student, by 266,000 students, or over \$147 million." Think about that. You know, if administrators are concerned about the cost of education, and they would infer that a reasonable, and decent, and not even an average salary for teachers in Nebraska, based on the seven states around us, is greed. Boy, they sure have a different conception of fairness, and competence, and responsibility than I have. So I'd suggest that based on both what Senator Abboud suggested, which wasn't true, and what Senator Nelson failed to say as it applied to administrators, about maybe even their own greed, certainly not competence, we should not support the Abboud amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Withem, did you wish to discuss the Abboud amendment?