

the school board luncheon, I had lunch with a school board member who's a physician and he told me that he has methadone heroine addicts who are on methadone in his practice and the number one employer of them are school bus drivers in the OPS system. If these people don't have histories of criminal activity, they're still not going to be found, but that's a very serious thing to be going on, it seems to me, and something that we ought to probably look into. The difference, the problem is not that fingerprinting is hard or that it does any real harm to you. The real problem that I have with it to teachers, to professionals, is to single them out as a profession who are dealing with children when there are lots of professions who are dealing with children, and to say they alone have to meet this test and are held to this standard. No other profession is required to do the same. It's not uniform. It's singling them out and I think it sends a very poor message that this profession is a little bit different than any other profession that's dealing with children. Child psychologists and psychiatrists don't have to go through that method. Other certificate...or other members of faculty and staff, school nurses, for instance, would not have to go through this, but a teacher would. Why just a teacher? It sends a very bad message and it obviously gets people very upset and I think it just is not...this is not the right approach to try and take care of an obvious very serious problem and if we have problems with teachers, we ought to root them out and we ought to find a solution that will work, but I think Senator Ashford's attempt to deal with the problem that I think we very likely have with school bus drivers is legitimate and something that we ought to consider if we need to pass something at this time. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Horgan. Anyone else to discuss the amendment by Senator Ashford? Seeing no one, Senator Ashford, do you wish to close?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Dierks has a great reputation for sticking to his guns and he's done that on all his bills and sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't, but...sorry for using the words "guns", but I promise never to bring that up again. In any event, be that as it may, I appreciate Senator Horgan's remarks. I don't think the bill's going to pass, Senator Dierks, this way and I realize that you believe in what you're doing or you wouldn't have brought it here, and I think everyone agrees with you there and I...but I don't think the bill's going to pass and I think realistically