

effective background check since they're already doing it. You're not doing anything different, all you're doing is...

SENATOR WARNER: Time.

SENATOR HORGAN: ...you're doing a better job.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. Clerk, is there an amendment on the desk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend. (Read Chambers amendment. See page 421 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, paraphrasing Patrick Henry, freedom for everybody or freedom for nobody; oppression for everybody or oppression for nobody. Rather than allow discretion on the part of these school districts as to whether or not they are going to subject new applicants after a certain date to this degrading procedure, I want it across the board. We, as the Legislature, have created the public school system. The State Supreme Court has ruled repeatedly that based on that fact we can enact laws regulating how the schools are to be run. That amendment that I'm offering fits within that category. We are talking about the qualification and suitability of a person to be a teacher as a teacher. If a person is suspected of being a security risk around children, it does not matter whether it's a Class I, II, III, IV, V or whatever school. We're looking at the nature of the individual who is applying. If the members are going to support this kind of a procedure, then it ought to be one that is imposed by the Legislature and not bucked to the individual school districts so that they can choose to do it or choose not to do it. I'm going to listen and see what reasons that are rational and logical can be offered against making this mandatory if we intend to do it. Either it is a sound policy in the public interest to require these criminal background checks or it is not. It cannot be a sound policy in Grand Island but not Omaha. It cannot be a sound policy in Madison but not Fairfield. There are other pursuits, which if we're going to make this kind of requirement, would be more suitable for a legislation of this kind than teachers. If somebody could show that the system by which persons are allowed to be certified to teach is so loose that all kinds of criminals and perverts and