

lived here all of my life shows that I have a great love for this state, we have to be realistic about how much of an impact our state has on a presidential election. And if you look at the chart that was handed out yesterday by Senator Kristensen, where he compares the populations of New York and Texas and California with that of Nebraska, we don't quite have the same amount of people living in our state as those states. And, unfortunately, we probably will not get the kind of attention that I feel our citizens deserve in the presidential process. Part of the argument that was heard when we originally enacted this change was that we would get more attention, that Nebraska would become more of a focus, that those people out in Scottsbluff, people in North Platte, Grand Island, Omaha and Lincoln would each get more attention because their particular district would become more crucial. Well, in actuality, we went through a presidential process, Nebraska received maybe more, probably a lot less than we normally receive, I don't know, about the same really, in realistic terms. We didn't get the kind of attention that I felt we should have, but I don't really see that this change really had the impact that was...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR ABBODD: ...promised. We, I feel, may have to change the process to electors, but the process that we have will not give Nebraska a greater say. Quite frankly, I never have quite understood why we have it broken up. We have five electors, three of them elected by district, two of them by popular vote, it's kind of a strange system that we have, to begin with. And it's a process that I feel has not worked, and the process, I feel, that we should change. So, for that reason, I'm going to be voting to support Senator Kristensen's bill and for its eventual enactment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. I want to continue on from my opening about some of the other reasons for this bill and to talk about some of the arguments that have already been made. I don't see Senator Withem here at the moment, but certainly I think Senator Withem is in a very unique spot and has a very unique opportunity this morning. He's traveled around the state talking about nonpartisanship. He can prove that this bill is a nonpartisan