

a pretty thick amendment. But it had to eliminate reference to the NEOC throughout statute. I cannot see that we can go halfway with this type of a structure, a mediation structure. The EEOC has the power to go into the private sector, initiate investigation, initiate a mediation case, tie up a business with time and accusations from an individual through the EEOC. I know a lot of people that I've talked to would say, you know, they'd rather settle out of court, they don't want to go to the EEOC, they don't want it public, you know, these kind of things happen. This...they handle some very sensitive areas, that's why I think that to put them under any changes, under more political oversight is the wrong thing to do. I think this bill goes in totally the wrong direction. It doesn't allow for any of the recommendations that...or just about any of the recommendations that were given in this summary. If you will read through the recommendations of this summary and then go over the commission's response to those recommendations, I think you'll see two sides of what's going on with the EEOC here in the state of Nebraska. And understand that Senator Crosby made reference to something that was amiss that two employees were whistle-blowers and then were fired. We don't know that. That's the explanation that the employees have given. There's other scenarios that I've been given that those employees...about those individuals that I, I can't even bring up on the floor. There's a lot of rumor and innuendo going around about this situation which only highlights the fact that this commission and what it does is, is a very delicately balanced mediation tool for individuals within Nebraska. So if we can't allow that to stand autonomously alone, on its own, and allow them to work, give them the staff and the funding that they need in order to, to work right, to catch up on, on this backlog that they have, stop with the constant harassment, really, that they've been under for the last several years, ever since, you know, that we kind of heard about this my first year in the Legislature. It's been going on for years. It can be one of two things. I mean you hear from one side that says this has to be done because of mismanagement within the EEOC and then you hear from, from another side that tells you it shouldn't be done because the only reason it's being done is because of it's a political power play. I don't know which side to necessarily believe at this point with the EEOC, but I think that highlights the fact that you cannot make it any more political than it already is. You've just voted down an amendment to keep this Governor from doing away with the entire commission and appointing his own