

to just dangle there ineffectively or be used and abused, potentially abused as a political agency because I don't think it should, should happen that way, I think we should do away with it. Because if it's not going to be used as it was properly set up to be used as a mediation agency for people to be able to go to, if it's going to be used by politicians for political purposes or, or even have the potential for that use, I say the only other thing to do is to do away with it completely, and that's what this amendment would do. It would completely take all reference to the NEOC out of the statute, we would no longer have a Nebraska EEOC. We would, we would still have the federal, of course, but there would not be an agency here in the state of Nebraska. And those are the only two ways I can see it because this isn't something you can do halfway. This is something, isn't something you can compromise on or, or just give them a little bit of power in order to do what they need, or have a little bit of oversight in order to do what they need. You can't go halfway on this agency. I think you've either got to give it to them, give them the money and the people that they need to carry out as this agency was, was made to carry out or do away with it completely. So I would ask for you to vote for this amendment if you would like to see the NEOC done away with and not used as a political pawn by, by anyone. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Warner followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'd rise to oppose this amendment too. As I understand it it would completely abolish the Equal Opportunity Commission and leave the only avenues available to individual citizens who had reason to file a complaint in any of the areas that they'd either have to go to the local entity, in those counties where one exists, which they do in Lancaster and Douglas and a few other counties, but a great many areas it doesn't have such a local...or you have to go to the federal government. I was, I was here when this agency was established in '65 and I, you know there was, there was two groups generally of people, legislators who, who supported it. There were some of us that supported it because we thought it was right and necessary. And then the other group that supported it was to keep it from going to the federal government because the policy was going to be there. And that's probably why it passed because there was more people