

who pays their paycheck and who can hire and fire them. And, you know, you talk about cause, but that can always...that's kind of an issue that can always be debated too. So I see too much abuse here. I think we're going in the wrong direction to fix this agency. I would like to see more of the recommendations in the summary adopted, giving it a chance, giving the agency a chance, maybe, to right itself, to get working again, to advocate for the people who are waiting and backlogged within the agency. That's what I would like to see done. But given that that can't be because of this bill and the opportunity it has this year to pass, I would like to see totally taking it out completely since I don't want it to become more political and it can't stand autonomously with the passage of this bill. This amendment that I have would completely do away with the agency because I don't want to see it used as a political tool and as a pawn and I, I want to see it as it's supposed to be as an Equal Opportunity Commission. It can't operate that way, I don't believe, under the passage of this bill. So anyone who would feel that way I would ask you to go ahead and vote for this amendment and do away with the EEOC and then that takes it out of the temptation of anyone who, who might want to use or abuse it. And it, as Senator Chambers said, it's not killing it slowly, which this bill really does; it's killing it slowly, it's creating controversy in the press for the agency, it's very difficult for the agency to operate, even with just the admittance of this bill into the Legislature has created a lot of problems for that agency. And regardless of whether it's the employee...

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** One minute.

**SENATOR WITEK:** ...telling, telling the right story or the agency telling the right story, nothing has been substantiated yet that I can see and I think that's an outside issue. I think we should look at the longer future issue here of the EEOC in the state of Nebraska, see beyond this and realize that it can't function the way it's supposed to with the passage of this bill. I don't believe it can, so I'm going to, of course, vote for the adoption of this amendment to do away with it and I hope you would join me in doing so. Thank you.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Witek. The house is under call. Members are to be in their seats, have their presence recorded. We are, as I understand it, looking for Senators