

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and I addressed it and I was able to achieve that which others could not. So, if that could be done for northern Ireland, and the poor, down-trodden Catholics in northern Ireland, I want to do something for the poor, down-trodden gays and lesbians in this state. We did it with reference to northern Ireland because of a stratagem. I would like us to do it in Nebraska because it is right.

SPEAKER WITHM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I haven't jumped into this debate but I have had concerns about the bill and specifically those concerns are that I feel we are essentially gutting the commission. If we are not going to be setting up a system in which, we are setting up a system in which the accountability of that executive director is going to be most probably to the Governor. I know in the past there have been concerns raised by the...by some members as well as by the general public as to the last executive director that we had with the EEOC, and that person is no longer there and my belief was that we should move on and refocus the commission, hopefully build up morale a little bit and use the commission system that we currently have. Now, this bill came forward, there has been a lot of discussion about it on a variety of different topics, including the amendment that we are talking about right now, but it all boils down to who should be in charge of enforcing the system of statutes and rules that have been established to govern discrimination in the state. The power will shift away from that commission that is appointed by the Governor to, I believe, to the Governor. And, there is a number of different reasons why the Governor can remove a director for inefficiency, which is an awfully vague term, neglect of duty, misconduct, malfeasance, which is understandable, but the inefficiency language is something that I am concerned about in that if someone does not run an office according to the parameters of what the Governor feels, be that our current Governor or future Governor's, then that person can be removed. Or more importantly, what happens in the situation where a constituent comes to the Governor, says that I am being...I don't feel that I have been fairly assessed by the EEOC and by the executive director and I feel that that executive director should be removed. Now currently we have an executive director that is somewhat quasi judicial in nature, and if you look at your little chart here that Senator Warner handed out, you will