

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. There are no further lights. Senator Bohlke, you're recognized to close on the committee amendment.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think we've had a good discussion. There are those of us who have had this discussion before on the bill. Certainly, I agree also with a lot that Senator Bernard-Stevens stated. He and I have had this discussion on the floor one other time. And as I said, Senator Bernard-Stevens says that he's ashamed that we have to bring this bill. I said it saddens me. But I am convinced that it is a necessity, it's a necessity that, because we need to recognize that safe schools are one of the major issues plaguing education in our country. While most of the focus is on controlling the behavior of our young people, there is an assumption by parents, students and the public that students are safe from their teachers. However, the actions of teachers have been receiving more press in recent years. Before we can convince communities to work with the schools for a safer environment, we need to make sure that the danger is not coming from the teacher ranks. This bill is aimed at protecting our children from teachers that come into Nebraska after committing crimes in other states. As I have said before, we can do a criminal back...we can do a criminal background check on all 22,000 teachers in the state of Nebraska right now, and they do not even have to be told that that is being done. Schools do it. We have the list of a number of schools who already, currently do that on teachers in the state. The problem is right now that when we have teachers coming from out of state, those teachers that we know very little about, we have this barrier that we've created not allowing us to access information about those teachers. And so this is what the bill does, this is the reason that it addresses those teachers from other states, because currently we know less about the teachers than we do...from other states and do not have the ability to find out that information than those teachers who are here as residents of Nebraska. And so, with that, I ask you to support LB 754.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. You've heard the closing. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 754. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of committee