

would not be subjected to that, just a little clarification for you as to what that means in terms of first issuance of certificate. I stand in opposition to the amendment, although David and I have had numerous conversations in the legislation proposed last year about whether this really gets to the problem or not. While I agree that there are people who might come into the state and wait five years to get a certificate, most likely coming from another state they would need to meet some of our requirements by taking additional classes in order to do that. We have a multicultural or a human relations requirement that other states don't have. We have three hours in special education classes that other states don't have, and those people would, at one time or another in those five years, have to be involved in the graduate level, taking some other classes. While that certainly is no guarantee that they're going to indicate in any way to those other members of the class that they may be someone with a criminal background, I think it also gives us some opportunity to get a sense of who that person might be. And, indeed, a very clever person could make sure that no one found out for any of those five years. On the other hand, I think clearly one of our biggest problems is the people moving into the state from other states, where there is no, no process like this in place at all. Nebraska becomes a nice, safe haven for someone who says, I can move in there and no one will check my background through the fingerprint process. We also know we can't find everyone, because often they aren't charged and there are no actual records of an offense. So there are all kinds of little glitches in this process, in trying to find someone we're trying to protect against who would work with our children. On the other hand, I think this is the first good step. I think we begin here, rather than require every teacher in the state who's been teaching to be fingerprinted, we start with those who are moving into the state and those who are requiring a new certificate of some type, even though they have been teaching in the state. I think that's a good balance and I think it's a good first step. I would urge you to oppose the Bernard-Stevens amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Hartnett, I wish I would have given your speech in my opening, because your situation would be exacerbated if this amendment is