

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 10, 2000 LB 1135

body. I do rise in support of this effort. I served the state of Nebraska as a representative on the Council of State Governments Suggested State Legislation Committee. We have been looking at model legislation throughout the states and I want you to be aware that we're behind the times here; that other states have moved to coordinate all of their activities in this area. They recognize that many good efforts are thwarted by the lack of coordination between the different groups that are working on specific areas within that expertise. So I think this is a good effort. I would be more than happy to share with the people involved here any of the information that I have from other states. But I think that this is a move in a good direction and I thank Senator Brown for being aware of the problem, being involved in the problem and trying to bring us a solution. Thank you.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President and members, in response to...I can only totally agree with what Senator Schimsk said about us taking baby steps and needing to do more of this. My...my perspective was first start with the things that are statutory and involve multiple agencies, because that's the other piece of this. We're talking not just about the Department of Health and Human Services but the Department of Education and the way they work together. And...and so this is just a first step, but I think it is a very critical first step in us being able to provide the kinds of early childhood services that we need to provide. In response to Senator Byars' concerns, I would point out that there are several references in the amendment to complying to federal law and that we have taken the membership of the council that...and replicated what we have in current statute that has kept us in compliance with federal law. And so I am...I am comfortable that we have made enough references to being in compliance with federal law that...that we will be...that we'll be fine; that the legislation, as drafted, is fine, but I will certainly be willing to look at it. I think the more important issue is whether we are going to make the structural changes that were recommended by the Business Financing Commission and also the recommendations that are coming from the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services and from the administration in trying