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SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Jensen, would you respond?

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes. We have generally looked favorable upon requests to have continuing education towards any occupation. We are in an era that times, systems, care changes, and so I...if an agency or an occupation or a professional group wants to look forward to continuing education, if the costs are reasonable, it seems to be...and if the individuals want that, we have generally concurred with that request.

SENATOR BROWN: Were there professional groups that you look to in terms of making those determinations?

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes. And usually we have support in the committee of individuals who feel that it's not only a request but it's necessary to keep up with the advanced treatment and times that we're living in.

SENATOR BROWN: Do you believe that there are risks that are associated with the lack of ongoing education in the health professions and in the early childhood care and education profession?

SENATOR JENSEN: I don't know about risks, there certainly are...like I said, we are in a changing environment. We also have new technology, new studies, that generally point that there is...might be a better way or newer way for treatment. And that's not all, just treatment of physical, but we have the same thing in many other occupations. Fact is, I think somebody said everything except attorneys have some sort of a continuing education, certainly teachers and real estate agents and insurance agents and everyone else does, but...

SENATOR BROWN: Senator Robak...(laughter) Senator Robak made the assertion that she did not believe that early childhood care and education was a profession. Do you share that position?

SENATOR JENSEN: Well, certainly, Senator Robak, that's her opinion, and I won't say one way or another whether that's correct or not, and we're all entitled to our own opinions.