

SENATOR LAMB: Then make up your mind.

SENATOR NEWELL: Could Rex close, let me speak.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Newell, go ahead and then Rex can close.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise in support of this amendment that I co-sponsored with Senator Haberman. Frankly, the issue here is one that we ought to pay attention to because it is not an insignificant issue. It is a very important issue. What is happening today is that we have had on the books since the 40's, since 1940 a provision that says, "anytime you take care of more than one child, for pay, you have to get a license." Now this has been a fine law, there has been no basic problem with this law as long as this law is not enforced. There is no problem with that. If you don't enforce the law there is no one that has a problem with this provision. And, we haven't enforced the law so we haven't had a problem with the provision. But, there is now in this country far more concern and very legitimate concern for the care of our children. That is a legitimate issue. In fact, in many cases we need greater enforcement and regulation of those providers of child care that in fact do it in a commercial way. I'm in agreement with that. I'm in agreement with LB 520. But, I say that the issue here is changing, it is no longer a law that hasn't hurt anybody because it hasn't been enforced. It is now a law that will and ought to be enforced. Consequently we have to ask ourselves in a very philosophical way, at what point in time is it legitimate for the state to regulate and at what point in time is it a nuisance, is it an unnecessary burden. Does the law have a legitimate argument throughout this issue? Where do you draw that line? I think that the line really ought to be drawn here. That those people providing child care, taking care of their own children and somebody else's children in excess of four, ought to have a license. They ought to be regulated, they ought to have their home inspected. I think that is a reasonable place to draw that line. On the converse side of that if you have fewer than four children then in fact, then in fact I think it becomes somewhat of a nuisance, it becomes somewhat unnecessary. It is not near as important to require the regulation. But, you see the issue is simply that we are no longer talking about those sleepy hazy days when we had a law that no one paid attention to because there are many more women working outside the home today than ever before and child care is of greater importance today than ever it has been before. For that reason we need LB 520, we need to provide a little better enforcement, a little more concern about those people who in a commercial