

be folly. We owe it to young people who can not protect themselves against things that they have no responsibility for in the first place. So we are just saying, when you take care of children you are going to provide minimal standards because you are getting paid and the least you can do is provide minimal standards and that is what Senator Johnson's bill does. Therefore, I oppose Senator Peterson's motion to indefinitely postpone LB 520.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature before beginning my remarks Senator Beutler made a comment relative to the requirements that we have for those children that are presently in public schools saying that this standard should be established for these also. There is a distinction those who are attending the schools is. . . it is mandatory that they be there. So I can certainly understand why that standard should exist. In the case of those that have their children in preschools, this is strictly voluntary on their part. I think the parents are in the best position to make a determination as to what place and what setting they wish to have their children involved in. I have just circulated and I believe Senator Peterson did last night also, a document that was given to me, by the Early Education Cooperative, the group which is opposing the passage of LB 520. I have shared that with you so that you might refresh your memory if you had read it last evening, and would also like to say that I support Senator Peterson's motion to indefinitely postpone LB 520. I believe, ladies and gentlemen, that I do this, is I feel that if this bill were passed, that...an initial step by the state to begin to control the care, the education of preschool aged children. This area has historically been reserved to the family. As it is now parents are at a liberty to decide when and if and how they wish to educate their preschool children. Historically the parent has had the sole right to evaluate, judge the right kind of early childhood experience that he or she wants for his or her child. Now who could be more familiar or interested, accountable for a child's well being than a parent who lives with that child, has daily contact with the child and in Nebraska there exists a diversified preschool industry. It has spontaneously grown to meet the diverse needs and values of the various parents and children of our state. In choosing a school a parent deals directly with the staff and is responsible for his or her own choices. Now if the school proves to be an unsatisfactory one, then the parents have immediate recourse. They can communicate their concerns to the school and if they are not satisfied then they can make a decision to remove or withdraw that child and choose another alternative by seeking another