

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to speak in behalf of LB 678. I feel almost redundant because Senator Wesely has given such a wonderful outline of the bill and its intent. For me, the big thrust of this bill is the training for caregivers. I think it's essential for day care for children, adults, whomever, that people who are going to give that care need to know what they are doing, how to do it, and why they are there. Just recently, we've had two examples in this area of what caregivers are up against. For instance, the fire in Weeping Water in the church, there were some little ones downstairs which the people who were there ran downstairs immediately to get them out. How many of you in this room can say that you've had any training in fire fighting or fire safety and would know how to get those little ones out? You can't grab a bunch of two-year olds and say, line up, we're leaving the building. You must take them and get them out, and that's the thing we have to remember about day care. Most of it is for children under five years old, so they are not marshalled and ordered to do things very quickly. You have to show them how and get them out, so I think those people at Weeping Water certainly should be complimented for getting that done quickly with no loss of life because smoke can get people so quickly. Anybody who knows about fires knows that. The second one, here in Lincoln we had a 25-year-old person who was giving day care in his own home to an elderly man and the officials found out that she was abusing him. Now, I'm not saying anything about the merits of that case because, of course, it is being investigated, but my point is, here's a young person who thought, oh, great, I can go and make some money and do...help this man in his own home. The person evidently had no idea what they were getting into, didn't know anything about giving care and they didn't know how to relate to other people. That's very important. Human relations are so important in day care for any age, child, adult or someone with a special handicap. So for me, this bill centers around that training. I just think that is so important and I'm very pleased that we added the amendment to involve the fire marshal on the Advisory Board. The second thing that I will bring to you, to put it on...I'd like to put it on a personal basis because we have to realize that day care is a given in the 1990s, it's here to stay. We cannot say, well, we aren't going to do anything about day care. We must do something. A lot of you have seen these funny movies that are sort of part of the genre of the last couple of years where three young men find a baby on their doorstep and have hilarious adventures trying to take care of that baby. Well, it's funny