

comfortable with that.

SENATOR WESELY: I'm told that it is fewer than a hundred and I don't know why that would change under this. See, all I'm saying is I don't think changing the reimbursement rate, Senator Wehrbein, would bring more into the special need children onto the program. I don't think that's really what would happen. I don't know why it would change that. There is a certain pool that is under ADC and under Title XX and that's always going to be there. If we pay more for them to get good day care, that will cost us more, but I don't know if that would mean more utilization of day care as a result.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I understand. Thank you.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Coordsen, further discussion.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. So far this discussion this afternoon has centered around the individual members of the body or came from individual members of the body who represent, by definition, the larger population centers of the state. And it is very difficult to stand on the floor and be somewhat reluctant to support LB 678 because all of us, I think, are in favor of good quality child care services in Nebraska. But my comments would, I think, evolve from a concern in that there is in my area, and I'm sure in many of the other rural areas, a lack of availability of child care services in any well-defined scenario in the small communities, where there are working parents, fathers and mothers, for whatever reason in need of someone to care for their children. And in the communities of a hundred or of 200 or of 300, it's very difficult to find someone to provide those services. And I have a concern that in my district this bill, rather than improving the quality of child care services, might well ultimately result, at least through the regulation, the rule writing process, that we will designate to agencies of state government in a denial of opportunity for a lot of parents. And I guess my question of Senator Wesely is, do you have or have you given consideration as to how the implementation of this bill, should it pass, might affect the small communities across the State of Nebraska as far as the availability of care, and the reason I ask this question is that I know several people who have left the field because of current