

regulation. You can have the rest of my time, Senator.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Senator Coordsen, you hit on another issue I'm sure many in the rural areas have about day care and I agree with you, the concern is there for rural areas of the state having adequate day care and just having any day care in some cases. This bill, the only additional restriction, only additional barrier is the four hours a year training. The rest is purely optional, intended to provide the hotline for instance, the coordinating committee is an attempt to keep on top of the issues and really for a provider out there in rural Nebraska, the only thing I could see that they would have to fear would be the four hours a year, frankly. I'm just...that's my perception, and then I can see from a rural area they would think, you know, where am I going to get the four hours and all that, but truthfully, it would seem to me that that's a very minimal request and there is much to be gained from four hours a year. That four hours could be spent meeting with other providers, a chance to learn about programs, assistance, resources, things that could be helpful to them to feel less isolated. I think in a lot of the rural areas that's one of the big problems that they may be the only day care provider in a town and it's a hard for them to keep in touch with others in the field and this would be an attempt to link them up, to have an ability and resources out there to work with them and, really, that's the main focus. We did have a hearing in Wayne and in Beatrice, Beatrice being somewhat close to your area of the state, and we found a lot of support for this type of thing.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: That providers did, in fact, see some advantages to training, that they did see advantages for the state to reach out and work with them more to have resources available to them, and so we found a very positive response in at least those two hearings where we had anticipated some real negatives. So I don't think that you'll find as many people in the rural areas as concerned about things as it might appear at first and, in fact, through this effort and initiative which is hoping to be positive, it's attempting to reach out and help provide assistance and training and whatever to recognize the importance of the job and I think the rural areas of the state will benefit as much or more so than urban. And if I had more time I'd tell you about how in child care we're finding a lot of concerns with...well, I won't get into that. But urban and