

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, would you like her time?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, thank you, Senator Nelson. Again, I am not trying to blind side Senator Wesely's bill. I apologize, Senator Wesely, that I have not familiarized myself with the bill and I ought to have. I ought to have known more about it. I know that you have a deep concern, and as had been pointed out by Senator Beck, there are several different issues here, but my concerns are twofold. First of all, the increased cost and the "market" rate system and how it will impact upon rural areas because it is extremely difficult for many of my constituents who work for very little wages at this present time to afford day care. I don't want to get into a situation where we provide and mandate direct services to the extent that we make it impossible for these persons, first of all, to obtain day care; secondly, if they do obtain day care, that they can afford to pay for it. I know that we all have some concern about the quality of care. We are concerned about safety for these children. We are concerned about their health aspects, but I guess that is part of the problem coming from a small community where we, for the most part, know quite a little bit about each other and each other's habits and are more inclined to take people at face value on that. I know also that we have a difficult time in some of those areas to provide any kind of day care, and to the extent that we make it more difficult, more expensive, we can actually hinder the people we are trying to help. So, at this point, I am going to take Senator Wesely at his word, but I have to tell you that I am going to have to learn a lot more about the bill than I know at the present time as it moves across the board. I would hope that...again, I am always concerned about many of these bills which do not receive full and extensive debate because so many times when we start on a bill, we have the best of intentions, and it has happened to my bills, it has happened to a lot of bills...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...over the period of time I have been here, only to find out that when we get down to the wire or a few years down the road that the original intent of the legislator or the legislators, Legislature, becomes secondary. I don't want that to happen here.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Haberman, please, followed by Senator Wesely.