

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well, Mr. President, and members of the body, I turned my light on to let the honorable Senator Schmit have some more time. If he would like to have my time, you may have it, Senator Schmit.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, would you like some more time?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I would just like to ask Senator Wesely if he would explain to me the creation and the operation of the child care rules and regulations advisory committee.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Certainly, Senator Schmit, actually that proposal came from hearings that we held around the state and found that a number of people were concerned about the department's rules and regulations as being too restrictive, too unreasonable, and we felt it important to bring into the process of setting up rules and regulations the providers themselves, so that they could advise, you know, with hands-on experience what might be best in adjusting those rules and regulations. So it is put in there specifically to reflect some concerns and to try and meet those concerns.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Is there a reason, Senator, why these persons are appointed by the Director of Social Services, or would they normally in some other instances perhaps be appointed by the Governor rather than the Director of Social Services, and why are they appointed by the Director of Social Services? It would seem to me that an appointment from that area might tend to cloud their individuality.

SENATOR WESELY: I think that the reason...I understand what you are saying, but the Governor, I guess it doesn't matter to me a whole lot who appoints. It was just felt that we do have other advisory committees and they are usually selected by the director of the department, at least over in the health and human service area that I deal with. The Director of Health appoints many different boards and commissions under that department. The Department of Social Services does as well, so precedent was the reason that we had the director, themselves, appoint that advisory committee.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Senator, you have a very prestigious list