

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Dierks, please, followed by Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. President, and members of the body, I certainly don't want to complicate this bill, but I am going to support Senator Lamb's amendment. I was having the same difficulties a year ago when I was on the bill with Senator Lamb. There are a number of people in my community that would like to see the number raised from three to five. It seems like that the key to the thing is that we are setting this at a limit of those counties, fifteen thousand or less, and we have two distinct problems here in this state. In the urban area, I can understand where they don't want this type of legislation, but in the rural area, it could be a very viable piece of legislation for us. So I would support Senator Lamb's amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thanks. Senator Schellpeper, please, followed by Senator Haberman.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. I, too, am going to rise and support the Lamb amendment. I think that there seems like a lot of times in this body when we do some things for child care and also some other bills, everything is always designed to help Omaha and Lincoln more than it helps outstate Nebraska. I think that this bill is probably one of those bills. After hearing it in the committee, I did not support it out of the committee, and I think that is one of the reasons along with the price tag, I think it is about a million and a half now, and I think that it could get to be more, and I think we need to wait until the federal government comes in with their bill, and then have a bill like this. I think we are getting ahead of ourselves with this bill at this time, but I do support the Lamb amendment because I think it is a step in the right direction. Thank you.

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

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well, Mr. President, and members of the body, there is no burning need or desire for this type of legislation outside of the large cities. Now you have heard a lot of conversation today about rules and regulations changing and protecting, and rules and regulations will do this and they will