

haven't been out there, but where we have been able to work in this area, I assure you that it is not a perfect scenario out there, and taking the state out by raising from three to five the number of children you can have in a day care home will certainly make matters worse, I believe. Now the idea is how onerous are the rules and regulations? How onerous is it to be licensed? And, at this point, it isn't particularly, I don't think. You merely look for some safety standards so that you have protection for those children, that if there is a fire or other physical harm can come to them that there is some protections there, and that causes difficulty with some, but I think it is reasonable. In addition, we try to make sure that there is some inspection of activities there so that we can be sure that the food is well-handled and the children are safe and in an environment that is protective. I don't think that is being too unreasonable. I think our children at that age are very vulnerable. They are at a stage at which sometimes they are not old enough to even express themselves in these day care homes, and trying to make sure some standards are being met is not an unreasonable thing to do.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Elmer, please, followed by Senator Haberman and Senator Smith. Now try it. Try it now.

SENATOR ELMER: There, that is better. Thank you, Mr. President. I was out of the Chamber when Senator Lamb was beginning his introduction of this amendment. I wonder if he might answer two questions or so. Senator Lamb, I understand this amendment would, in the counties that have fifteen thousand or less population, would allow an individual to keep up to five children without going through all the licensure arrangements, is that correct?

SENATOR LAMB: Yes.

SENATOR ELMER: Okay, do you have any comments that you would like to make relative to Senator Wesely's concerns about the quality of care or the possibility of abuse or the various types of food they might need and the safety requirements and so on? And, with that, I would relinquish the rest of my time to you, if you'd like.

SENATOR LAMB: Yes, thank you, Senator Elmer. Yes, I agree. You know, it is not an ideal, it is not a perfect scenario out there in those small counties, but it is much easier to handle