

than it is in highly populated areas, and this merely gives that parent a choice, a choice. The parent can still choose a certified day care home, if that is what she wants, if that is what she desires. That does not preclude that. What it does is give an additional option that a person can keep as many as five children without being certified, without going through the red tape of Nebraska state certification, and my rationale, as I mentioned earlier, is that people have a tendency to know what they are getting into in those rural counties. They know more of the people. They have a better idea of what kind of child care they will get, and it puts a little bit more burden, perhaps, on the parent but I think that is good. That is where it belongs. That parent has the choice, makes the decision, and can choose a person to take care of their child even though they care for four others. They would have a total of five that they could care for instead of the present regulation where it is only three. And it comes down, as I mentioned before, to an economic situation because a lot of those young mothers cannot afford to stay home and only keep three children. It is not...they would rather go out and get a job because economically they can't exist with just keeping three children. This will give them five children so they can make a little bit more of a business out of it, and be a child care person rather than going down and working in some store in town, and so they are more liable to do it. So it not only gives them more employment, it gives those mothers who want to work and are working a place to put their children, and that is very much in short supply out in many of those small towns just merely because the people are not willing to go through the red tape of certification.

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

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, and members of the body, I was asked a few minutes ago if this really was an Omaha-Lincoln issue versus other parts of Nebraska. There are eight social service districts. When you take day care homes, group day care homes, day care centers, and preschools, those are the four children care identities. In Omaha, this is a total of the four, they have 1,048 of them, 1,048. In the Panhandle, they have 204. In the Southwest District, southwest Nebraska, they have 203. In the north central, they have 109. So when you compare, say, 109 or 200 to 1,048, there is a difference. There is a big difference. Now I realize that it would be a bigger