

responsibility to try and make sure that these children, and we're talking here primarily under age, under six, and people that...these children, in many cases, are unable to even express themselves yet, in those vulnerable situations shouldn't the state be there to make sure there is fire protection and other safety in the physical well-being of those children; that those programs are there and those homes that are well cared for, and that the safety of those children is well regarded, and that there are certain minimum level of standards that they have to meet. I know it's an awful thing to talk about rules and regs and standards and most people object to that. But here again what you're talking about, let's put a face to this issue, you're talking about children, you're talking about kids specifically, under the Lamb amendment, in rural Nebraska. And I don't think we should separate them out from children in the rest of Nebraska. The program that we have in place has worked well. It's been, I think, one that has had its problems, but overall we've been able to protect children, and that's good. Of those complaints that we've had, again I emphasize, urban complaints are about equal to rural complaints. There may not be as many homes, as Senator Haberman was trying to point out, in those rural areas, but there are just as many complaints overall in urban as well as rural areas. So that means that there is a problem out there. And taking us out of that loop and taking us out of the ability to know who is out there providing child care, being able to deal with problems in those child care settings, I think, is a mistake for children. So, in general, I understand the support for the Lamb amendment, I simply don't agree with it. I think it's a mistake and I would ask your objection to it as well.

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

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I, first, want just one quick question from Senator Lamb.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lamb, please.

SENATOR CROSBY: If you'll yield to answer me one question. Senator, if this amendment goes through, are you going to vote for 678? Yes or no. (Laugh.)

SENATOR LAMB: That's a very tough question. I'd like to divide it, like you said, and put in that one...