

I will not be given a license unless I have specific training. Is that...am I accurate, so far?

SENATOR SMITH: Yes.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay. I guess my question is, if we have fewer and fewer foster care parents, which I know is correct, and you're absolutely correct on that, I'm assuming then that there must be some foster care parents out there, because of the shortage, that are having two or more children with them. And now my question is, if they have to now go to further expense or further time period of getting more training, will that, will that be the straw that breaks the camel's back even on some of those so that they'll say, I don't have time or the desire to do this, and I'm concerned, maybe we'll have even fewer foster care parents.

SENATOR SMITH: You want me to respond?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes, would you, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Yes, I understand where you're coming from on that, Senator Bernard-Stevens. The thing of it is, in my memory this has been a year ago, you know.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Right, I understand.

SENATOR SMITH: There were numbers of people that did testify in support of this. We were talking about that, I was concerned about the same thing in looking back now, but the thing of it is, there...and I've met with foster care in Kearney, in fact it was a group of foster parents, one hundred and some people from across the state who were very, very supportive of this. What we're hopeful of is the fact, for one thing, that costs of this training will be, they're going to be helped the day that they have to take off to get this training, for instance. So it's not going to create a real problem for them to get away from the children to do this training. The other thing is what we're hopeful of is, that we're having all this really kind of a burn-out, because they don't know how to deal, they don't know how to cope with the problems that these kids are bringing to them. And that this is a way not only for them to be able to understand, but to be able to address those needs, that the burn-out rate will be less, they can deal with it better. Also, there's a feeling among them that was expressed which is that