

exemption that existed for state employees or entities that contracted with the state. So there was not an effort at that time to get people to become grandfathered in in the nursing home industry in the same fashion that it was taken care of in other phases of social work. So this doesn't allow people with a different type of experience to be grandfathered in than those that were grandfathered in under the original bill. With that, I would move for the adoption of this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Discussion on the Coordsen amendment. Senators Wesely and Schellpeper.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, we did try to work with Senator Coordsen and the other parties concerned about this matter and they are very pleased that we reached a compromise. It essentially comes down to this that the OBRA...when we...before we get to the OBRA I want to talk about when we passed the social worker legislation it was clearly stated on the floor and in the record that we were not intending to have anybody forced to hire social workers. However, though we did keep our promise in terms of the state, the federal government did pass through OBRA a mandate that social workers be certified and so, in fact, we did end up forcing people to hire social workers. Now, as a result of that, the nursing home industry which had not felt that they were required to hire social workers hadn't had their individuals go through the grandfather or grandmother clause that we had provided for in the social work legislation and thus hadn't had their individuals who had been involved in this granted some sort of recognition or social work legislation. So, as a result, when the OBRA came in and the other complicating factors came together, the nursing homes really did face a problem and Senator Coordsen brought it to the attention of the Health and Human Services Committee. So we did sit down and recognize that 1080 does deal with the OBRA legislation, does deal with trying to conform to it. But how do we get at the problem social workers have with not wanting to open up and letting anybody into social work after they've worked so hard to get their legislation through and at the same time recognize the nursing homes' problem? And so the compromise we reached was in those cases of individuals involved in nursing homes that are out there doing their job and probably should have been under the grandfather, grandmother clause, whatever you want to call it, and didn't get done in time, didn't get...I'm doing that for Senator Smith so she knows I'm open-minded about these things,