

their sole business to be...provide day care services, and of course, they should be licensed. But the ongoing question is, you know, at what point does a provider become a professional, they need to be licensed. Now obviously if you're in the business and caring for, you know, eight, nine, ten children, seven, eight children, I mean, that's a full-time job, that's your job and you should be licensed like many other professionals across the state. On the other hand, for those people, I hesitate to say mothers because it's not always mothers obviously, and for those people that provide for fewer number of children, isn't necessary for them to be licensed. And I guess the argument that we are trying to make, that, no, they don't, if they only care for five or fewer children. Also, I think Senator Lamb will probably make this argument more strongly than me, given his district, is that there are...when you get out in a further area of the state there are more and more problems with being licensed. Obviously when you get in what I will call upstream Nebraska, given my limited amount of adjectives I can use to describe that area, there is a problem with access to license providers in situations like that, and so the amendment is rather straightforward. The reason I am involved is those of you that have followed some of the press accounts obviously I have a particular concern in my district where there has been a situation where there had been a number of providers that knowingly or unknowingly were not licensed, were turned into the department. The department found them in violation, gave them initially a limited amount of time to do something about it. These people obviously were not exactly, one, do not want to be licensed; two, do not feel it necessary to be licensed and they felt that if you raise these minimum numbers up, they could continue to provide care as they have. And so with that, I think the amendment is simple. It changes that number from four to six, or basically says you can care for up to five children and not have to be licensed by the State of Nebraska. So I know Senator Lamb has some other comments and, Senator Lamb, if you would like the remainder of the opening, you can be my guest.

PRESIDENT: You have six minutes, Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Mr. President and members, yes, as Senator Moore has explained, this amendment does one simple thing. It raises from three to five the number of children that a caregiver can take care of without being licensed by the state. You will remember that a few weeks ago this body did