

other people's children are capable of doing so and as much as the state can ensure or assure those people are not going to be cruel, they're not going to do vicious things to harm these children. The more children who are put into a set of circumstances where there is no regulation and control, the more I think the state abdicates its responsibility. If only two or three children are involved there can be a good chance that the people whose children they are will know the individual who will be looking after their children. The ideal set of circumstances might be that any person who is going to be paid for looking after other people's children should have to meet certain requirements. If a person drives a taxicab, whether the number of clients he or she will have as fares will be one or a thousand, that person still must be licensed to drive a vehicle. So I think when it comes to the care of children, when you have as high a number as five, I think it takes a special kind of person to be able to deal with that many small children and have uppermost in their minds what is beneficial to those children. You cannot rely on the one who is trying to make profit to do the things that are necessary to protect the interests of children when in some cases, to do so, diminishes the profit. Perhaps you can cut corners on what you feed them. If they're very small you can cut corners on how many times you change a diaper, how many times you powder a child or even how much time you give to just being with the child to oversee what that child does and what might befall the child. I think the amendment is very poor. I think it is ill-advised and it certainly shouldn't be added to a bill in this fashion on Select File. I would oppose it under any circumstances, but I especially oppose it now. Having seen, as a former member of the Franklin Committee, how many things are done to children by those you would never expect to do these things should cause this whole Legislature to be more circumspect and careful in how we commend children to the care of others. For the state to withdraw the protection that licensure requirements can provide would, I think, be an abdication of our responsibility, so I oppose the suspension of the rules and I oppose the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, please. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We're voting on ceasing debate. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.