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LB 836

action last year. Unfortunately it was vetoed. This is our chance to move forward now that the funding has been dealt with. There is no General Fund money in this bill and we can begin to address the concerns of parents, of families and providers and others across the State of Nebraska to provide quality child care.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. I'll now recognize senators in the following order: Senator Moore, Rasmussen, Wickersham, Lamb, Nelson, Will and Smith. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you, Madam President. If Senator Wesely would yield to some questions.

SENATOR WESELY: Sure.

SENATOR MOORE: Obviously, I believe Section 9 of the bill as it now talks with the voluntary registration, is that still the case?

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR MOORE: I know you touched on it briefly in your opening, I believe. I guess obviously given my historic point of view, or my and my constituents historic point of view, obviously voluntary registration obviously one can make the argument that is the first step towards licensing of all day care providers regardless of the number and obviously what is the benefit of having voluntary registration, would be the first question I would ask you.

SENATOR WESELY: Well it recognizes, obviously I would like to see the number drop from four to three in terms of registration, but I'm not going to try and pursue that. But in lieu of that, and I don't think anybody is talking about fully licensing everybody, registering them in day care, there is federal programs, a food program in particular that would be of assistance to a provider if they could qualify for it. It provides money for them to pay for the food that feeds those children, but they can't get that money unless they're registered in some fashion and so we thought that it would be advantageous to give them the option if they chose to, to voluntarily register and also this voluntary registration at the department would...it wouldn't be the same as being registered formally, or licensed formally. They could...