

SENATOR MOORE: It would be, or wouldn't be?

SENATOR WESELY: They wouldn't be. They could...they would have different standards for those voluntary registrations. They wouldn't be, I imagine, not as stringent. They would lower those on a voluntary basis, but the idea then would be that they'd have the choice, the provider would have the choice to become voluntarily registered and thus qualify for the federal programs, and then there's the additional federal program this fall, millions of dollars available there, I think they would also find attractive and the voluntary registration would allow them to qualify for that. So really this is a very positive thing, I would think, for these providers because what we're saying is we're not going to force you to get licensed but if you choose to do so, you have the chance to and through that you get assistance that you may not otherwise get.

SENATOR MOORE: One concern I would have that obviously there would be...it's actually a benefit to the Department of Social Services and to the State of Nebraska unless you were voluntary...voluntarily registered, there's more (inaudible) lot more funds actually. Is that correct?

SENATOR WESELY: It doesn't benefit the department at all. The money would go directly to the provider. There is no money that the state gets.

SENATOR MOORE: My concern is, I guess, is the department field individuals going to these people and the law says he doesn't have to, but really being somewhat more than encouraging saying you ought to do this. I guess I have concern about that happening.

SENATOR WESELY: No, I think that obviously people ought to know about the option and what it can mean for them, but I would hope nobody would force anybody to voluntarily register. That would be contradictory.

SENATOR MOORE: I concur, but I mean there's sometimes where the situation may arise where the individual is saying, well, you don't have to register but the department wants you to do this and that would lead towards something a little more than voluntary. It would be strongly urged. I have a concern about that and obviously...it's your intent that that is strictly