

that we make sure that we do all that we can that those are quality environments. We have an awful lot of information about what quality is. One of those factors is training. Those people who have more training tend to provide better environments for young children and as someone who has done a good deal of child care training across the state, I would say the vast majority of people who are in child care, be they licensed or not, are very interested in getting more training and are always looking for answers to some of the issues that they face in those environments. Child care ratios, continuity of care, age appropriateness of activity, sensitivity to cultural and ethnic issues, positive nurturing are also quality factors. The last one I want to pay attention to is the parent provider relationship. Those child care providers who have good positive relationship with parents are some of the best environments for young children who are being cared for. The task force, as I mentioned earlier represented a diverse population, people who were providers of care in their own home as well as in center base...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: There were times that this group was actually polarized to the fact, perhaps even paranoid about what was trying to be accomplished. The tone of this task force though has moved towards how do we accomplish quality care for our young children? And the issue of being voluntary has not, a sneaky way to try and get everybody licensed, but really a true intent to say we want to help provide the most support possible in terms of training and in terms of the kinds of programs that you might be eligible for and that is the tone of trying to offer the voluntary registration as one other option in addition to licensing. One of the things that happens if you're not on any kind of list anywhere is that you are not receiving information about training opportunities as well as program eligibility and so there is a real plus for those people to become involved, at least in a voluntary basis if not on a licensed basis. I would urge you to support this bill...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: ...because it has federal funding, I'm hoping that you will recognize its merits and we won't get bogged down with the financing and we'll move it on. Thank you.