

SENATOR WITHEM: The law, except for Class VI mandates if they live over four miles that they provide free transportation. They are currently by virtue of a bill we passed a couple of years ago allowed to provide transportation and charge for it for students that live less than four miles. But they can't use buses to transport people from conventions in York anymore.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, but we tried that. I had a bill passed but somebody vetoed it, but...but as far as the precedent of...maybe I'll ask this of you, this is probably more of an education, are you familiar with this section of the bill, Senator Withem?

SENATOR WITHEM: I am not, no, I'm sorry.

SENATOR MOORE: Well...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR MOORE: Okay.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes, Madam President and members of the body, I want to respond to a few issues that have come up to add to what Senator Wesely has done. Several people have expressed some concern about what this voluntary nature, voluntary registration is really trying to do. I would acknowledge that Nebraska has a history of being punitive towards those people who have not been licensed, to suggest that they are bad people, that they don't really care about children, that they're more interested in making money, that they're greedy and a lot of other kinds of things and sometimes in the past there has been a pattern of beating up on those people and because you have not been a part of the group that's been working on this for the last few years, there is no way for you to know that the tone really has changed, that the focus is, how do we get the job done of quality care for all of our children? And the attitude now is not to beat up providers but to support them and to help them in every way. So the voluntary registration doesn't change the fact that if they have less...if they're caring for three or fewer children they don't have to be licensed. They don't even have to do the voluntary, that's why it's voluntary, but by being voluntary it enables people to provide more support for them and the attitude here is to sort of reward being involved and identified as a child care provider instead of to beat up on