

February 14, 1995 LB 401

31,000 a year. And the idea is to establish the standards and to make inspections to know that they actually deserve to have that higher level of accreditation. But it will help to identify. The problem with child care is not all child care is equal, and some make an extra effort, have some extra training and there's more available. And trying to help parents identify those sort of settings is what we're trying to do.

SENATOR WITEK: And we're putting together a whole new committee, called the Child Care and Early Childhood Education Coordinating Committee, it's a new...new makeup of that committee with more members involved.

SENATOR WESELY: Well, it's...it's...it's been a committee that's been in existence since we passed the bill in '91, and...

SENATOR WITEK: And how many people are on the committee right now?

SENATOR WESELY: I don't know, Senator Brown would know that, but...

SENATOR WITEK: Okay, okay. Senator Brown, how many people are on the coordinating committee at this time? Twenty people on the coordinating comm...and we pay for their...we reimburse for their expenses, through the Department of Social Services. According to this we will be reimbursing their expenses through the Department of Social Services. It also states that we'll be using staff support through DSS. So we're paying for new staff support in the Department of Education and new staff support in DSS for this bill, and it will all cost us less than \$70,000 a year?

SENATOR BROWN: Senator, all of these things have been ongoing. The new part is the voluntary accreditation process. A number of child care programs in the state have participated...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...in national accreditation processes that are very expensive. And in some...sometimes we can assist them through the block grant money and getting that kind of accreditation. But we decided it would be more cost-effective to have our own state level accreditation process, but will not...it will cost very minimal...minimally to the program to be