

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 3, 2000

LB 925

did, I...to...and licensing certainly is important, but licensing doesn't have anything to do with the...with the curriculum that's offered or with the training of the staff or salaries of the staff and some of those kinds of things which I regard as very important. In short, I'm going to support this amendment. I think it's an important addition to the bill that Senator Landis offers. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Raikes. (Visitors introduced.) Further debate on AM2504 to LB 925, Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President and members of the body, given what Senator Landis had to say about the Suttle amendment, maybe I should support it because ultimately, as Senator Landis indicated in his opening on this bill, I'm not a fan of this proposal and, in fact, will not vote to advance it, as Senator Landis knows. So in that context, again I would reiterate that perhaps I should support Senator Suttle's amendment, because if it ultimately makes trouble for the bill, maybe I...maybe I should do that. But I'm not going to be that disingenuous about this issue. I think that we should talk about the issue straight up and I suppose that Senator Suttle's amendment makes some sense in the context of the bill itself, but the bill itself doesn't make any sense, so there you are. What on earth are we being asked to do by Senator Landis' bill? We're being asked to give a credit to corporations or other businesses for providing child care to their employees. Now we're being asked to provide that credit to the businesses in a way that potentially will affect persons who are already offering child care services. Remember, we've got a bunch of independent businesses out there that are doing that. We're not giving them any incentive unless they would provide child care services to their own employees. We're not doing anything for the existing industry of providing child care services. In fact, we're creating potentially new competition for those folks and competition on an unfair basis, I think. So that's the first policy question you have to ask yourself is whether you want to do that. The second kind of policy arena that I think you need to think about in the context of Senator Landis' bill is why should we be contributing to a business a portion of their legitimate employee expenses? One of the problems we have in