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LB 925, 1088

juvenile services, that we need to be much more concerned about doing things right for kids before we need to intervene in terms of providing them services in their adolescence, and this is one of the ways, if we do the right things, that we can impact children's lives. And so I would like to ask Senator Landis if he would yield to some questions about how he feels, since so many of these amendments deal with the quality issue, how he feels that the bill ensures that not only will there be provision of services but those services will impact children in the right way.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Landis, will you yield?

SENATOR LANDIS: We have licensure standards that are minimums in the state, all of these are contemplated as being a licensed child care location. Above the licensed situation, we have accredited programs and we have very, very few in the entire state, very few. I don't object to the goal of quality. I think they got...the qual...the goal of quality is a wise and valuable one and the way of achieving it should probably be a socially arrived at agenda, not based in LB 925 but that, in fact, we think of how do we raise the quality of child care across the board, whether it's employer based or not. The quality agenda, it seems to me, probably ought to stem from the genuine social value in raising quality. The provisions of bills that did that, I am not sure whether or not...LB 1088 didn't get out of committee, I am not sure about the source of the other issues that are here. I have a political reality at the moment and I think that there are two kinds of social value here; one, increase child care capacity and add employer resources into the mix is a social good. That is justification itself and alone. That's what LB 925 does. There's a second social value and that is increasing the quality of the child care that we now provide or that we might provide in the future. That's a value that's not now in LB 925. Some of these amendments are trying to suggest and add that to LB 925. My preference would be to achieve that goal outside the conflict...the confines of LB 925. Although as part of a statewide initiative, you could tie that to LB 925.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.