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LB 925

SENATOR LANDIS: However, LB 925 would be the only vehicle for doing quality at this point that we would use given the level of amendments that are coming up at this point. Quality is a valuable agenda. We should do it knowingly and across the board. LB 925, if it's the only mechanism to do that, I would say, look, pick another day and achieve the quality goal in a different context, and I'll help.

SENATOR BROWN: And I would...I would say that...that there is more to it than just whether you're advancing a social value. There is the...our accountability for how these tax credits are used, and you admitted that the standards that we have in place for licensing are minimal. We have higher standards for many other kinds of...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR BROWN: ...thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brown. (Visitors introduced.) Further debate on the Suttle amendment, Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature. First of all, let me say I do support quality child care for all citizens. We are learning with early brain development that the young mind is so receptive and with quality programs can be expanded, can be molded, and so I do think that we do need to provide the best child care that we can. However, in this whole circumstance, I must say that I really am searching for answers in that trying to figure what is the state's responsibility in the whole child care system. Now we, earlier this year, debated a bill that allows for all those, and, Senator Wickersham, you mentioned for...we need to increase the pay, however, we are now providing child care for every family who is 185 percent or below the poverty level with free child care. Under Landis' bill, we take and we'll provide a business credit for a firm providing child care and I struggle with that, particularly in a free enterprise, free market system, where we had...used to have employers that would provide more benefits to attract employees and it would seem to me that if they want to provide a child care at their facility, that