

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 925

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Landis, on the Suttle amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: Question.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Do I see five hands? Raise them high. I see five hands. The question is, shall debate cease? Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. The question is, shall debate end? Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 19 ayes, 11 nays to cease debate.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The motion is not successful. Senator Coordsen, on the Suttle amendment.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I thank the body for allowing us the opportunity to continue the discussion a little bit at this stage of debate. I hope those of you that haven't committed yourself listened carefully to Senator Jensen and Senator Wickersham. And before I continue, I should like to commend Senator Landis because this is an issue in which, I guess like Montana, he has a heart as big as all outdoors. None of us are opposed to child care. None of us are opposed to children. Matter of fact, I think most of us have some lineal descendants that we're responsible for, either first generation or second generation out behind us. But if I were a business and I were wanting an additional incentive and I had a business that took substantial numbers of relatively low-paid hourly workers, whatever that might be, and I didn't want to compete on salary, it simply appears to me that this issue of providing an in-house child care system, whether you provided it yourself or contracted with someone else to provide it, would provide you that incentive. Bear in mind that most employees don't have the problem of finding day care for their children. For those that do, it is a tremendous problem and one that I think has been outlined. We, as a society, have taken many steps to try to assist in maintaining a family structure and caring for the young of those that for whatever those reasons are must work. I hope you listened when Senator Wickersham shared with you all of the deductions already available to businesses to recover the cost of providing child care should they so desire to do that, and ask yourself, why