

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

April 6, 2000

LB 925

about is, is there a reason for the state to become involved in children having the best start possible? And is there evidence that we have that supports certain kinds of programming being better for children than other kinds of programming?

SENATOR RAIKES: That's not multiple choice, but it helped a lot. Yes, there is considerable research on early childhood that programs make a big impact on the early development of children if they are quality programs. And to carry on a little bit, quality mostly regards, in that context, the content of the curriculum actually and the training and qualifications of the people who work in that center. I would say from my, and I'm far from any expert, but from what I've been able to gather those turn out to be two critical things. Obviously, it's important to have a building that won't fall down and to have a ratio of child-care workers to children that's within reason, but I think you can have both of those and still not have a quality program.

SENATOR BROWN: Okay, now as to your amendment, do you think that you've set the bar so high that...and we need to be realistic about the numbers, the programs that you've shown that are accredited here would not be available for credits and it takes a certain amount of time to become accredited. And so, you know, are we setting a bar that makes it difficult for it to really prove to be an incentive to the business to do this and to do it right?

SENATOR RAIKES: I think that's a very good question. On the second page, I've included a list of the actual costs that would be incurred to apply for accreditation and you can see that compared to other costs the center would likely incur, these are not at all high. Now that doesn't mean that there wouldn't be, and hopefully there would be, some additional costs that are not reflected here because I'm hoping that this sort of accreditation would require training of people who work there that would make them more valuable employees and entitled to wages to compensate.

SENATOR BROWN: Yeah, and I'm not...I'm pretty familiar with the costs, and I know that they are costs that can be managed and there's actually assistance that's available to manage those