

this is permissive legislation authorizing, if they wish to do so, a school district to offer before and after child care services for a fee, although that fee can be waived on the basis of need. There are 127,000 Nebraska school age children and preschool children that are in need of some kind of child care. Roughly half that number are preschool children. Half of those are school age children and there is a shortage by comparing that number to the amount of regulated licensed day care slots. There is a shortage of 112,000 day care slots. Certainly, a lot of that is picked up by unlicensed day care, however, there is a tremendous amount of kids out there that have no before and after school care. They are called latch key children because of the story that the key is placed around the neck of the child on a long string and the child is told not to let anyone into the house until the parents come home. That is insufficient supervision, as any child psychologist will tell you, and there is a growing body of evidence that this is a very vulnerable group for antisocial behavior to become a part of the home life or the child's nature and for that reason we want to promote when possible supervised child care. This is permissive legislation to allow school districts to do that and I'd move for its advancement.

PRESIDENT: Is there discussion on LB 68? The Chair recognizes Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members, I'd like to ask Senator Landis a question if I may. Senator Landis, I understand this is a permissive piece of legislation, but my question is, should a district, school district, decide to make this service available? And the decision is made that the family cannot afford it, then I am assuming that the school district picks up those costs. Is that correct?

SENATOR LANDIS: Yes.

SENATOR CARSTEN: And what if these costs get to a point where the school district can no longer believe they can tolerate it, what's going to happen then?

SENATOR LANDIS: Two things can happen. Number one, the school can cancel the program, the school can limit that kind of need based fee waiving. They have the management decision not to accept that child if they don't want to. They can also go out in the community and look for