

be able to qualify but this would set a different way that they could do it that would be less stringent.

SENATOR NELSON: And if they're in the...not licensed, but they voluntary or the four as we were just talking about, there would be no reason why that the families own children could not be included or should not be included in the food program probably. I take it that if someone is providing the day care they certainly need the funding and help with the food for their own family. Am I right?

SENATOR WESELY: That is right, yeah.

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you, thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I rise in wholehearted support of this piece of legislation. I commend Senator Wesely and Senator Rasmussen for bringing it to us. I think that this is probably the initial step in what's going to be increasing state involvement with the issue of child care. This morning, as I drove down from Omaha, listening to the radio and I heard a report that we're...here in the United States we have right now the fewest number of people per household than at any time in our history. I think it's 2.6 people per household right now and it doesn't take a genius to figure out that that means there probably are a lot of single parent households out there that are in need of child care services and it behooves us as the representatives of the State of Nebraska to make sure that the services that are being provided out there are the best services possible, that they are providing the best environment possible for our children so that our children can enter school and become productive citizens. I think the point that Senator Rasmussen made about the importance of the first five years of life with respect to the subsequent years is a key one that we need to keep in mind as we're discussing issues that directly affect our children. I think that there is no question that issues like this that deal with the children of our society truly are affecting the future of the State of Nebraska and we shouldn't look at them lightly. We should not gloss them over. These are important issues and I hope to work on those issues with Senator Wesely and Senator Rasmussen and the rest of you during the next few years. I urge your approval of LB 836. Thank you.