

April 14, 1994

LB 909

LR 385, 496, 499-501, 503-507

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members. I rise in support of LR 507, and I'm glad to see that Senator Pirsch is taking the opportunity to recognize the childcare providers in the State of Nebraska. But I must make a couple of comments. First off, she said that we haven't really...she doesn't know of any situation where we've celebrated childcare providers, and that is not the case. We have had numerous celebrations, I've been to Kearney, Grand Island, here in Lincoln, and I understand up in Omaha, we have had functions where childcare providers have been recognized. We had an event out here on the steps of the Capitol where the total steps were filled with hundreds and hundreds of kids, and Governor Orr and I were out there talking to them about childcare issues. So we have had steps to try and recognize childcare providers, and I think that's been important. In addition, we've also done more than just talk about childcare, we've actually tried to do something about childcare. Unfortunately, some would rather talk than act, and that has been the case here with this resolution and with previous legislation, LB 909. Instead of just passing a resolution and talking about how wonderful childcare providers are, and I'm glad that we're doing it, I support it, we should actually do something to help those childcare providers. We had a bill to accomplish that, LB 909, a consent calendar bill that came out of the Health and Human Services Committee unanimously, brought to us by the Early Childhood Coordinating Committee and the Departments of Education and Social Services. But we got a little ambushed on consent calendar by none other than Senator Pirsch and Senator Witek who decided that they didn't want to discuss the issue, that they didn't want to see progress be made on childcare, or early childhood education. Well, here we are talking about childhood education, here we are talking about childcare providers, but I'd rather not just talk, I'd rather do something about it. Well, now we know that we've got some individuals who aren't as concerned about childcare and about early childhood education as they might say they are, and knowing that we'll be ready, next year we'll be back, we won't be surprised next year. And the bill didn't have to pass this year, next year we'll be back and we'll be successful. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Madam President. I won't take much of your time, but I want to speak for just a moment to LR 505, which is Senator Robinson's and my resolution to extend sympathy