

April 14, 1994

LB 836

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

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President and members. Senator Wesely, thank you so much for speaking out on the childcare and on early childhood education. One of my first bills, the first thing, and I've always been grateful to Senator Withem, he allowed me to work and carry the early childhood education bill that we have in place, and the pilot programs are going forward. So I do appreciate that, because I think early childhood education is a given, and we need to do everything we can to enhance it. But my second, what I'm really talking about on this, I did want to mention Senator McKenzie's resolution on the D.A.R.E. program, because, again here in Lincoln, night before last, we had another 17-year-old killed in an accident because of alcohol. And all I want to mention is the fact that we must come to the point where we recognize that alcohol is a drug and the most lethal and the most easily obtained drug that's available. So I do thank Senator McKenzie for giving me the vehicle to say this little thing to you. I will again mention I have sent to you a letter, we are going to institute a study, during the interim, a broad study of how these people get the cars and why they are allowed to drive when they're on suspension. That's one of the big problems. I helped...I hope a lot of you will help on that, we need all the help we can get, so thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Madam President, members of the body, I rise to support LR 507. I want to thank Senator Pirsch for bringing it. She's correct in saying that childcare providers are doing one of the most important, if not the most important jobs out there, and that is the caring of our children, particularly in some of the most formative stages of their lives. And most of them are doing it for remarkable low wages, and that deepens my appreciation to their commitment to our children. I do want to indicate that I'm also proud of the fact that the State of Nebraska has done things under the leadership of folks like Senator Wesely and Senator Crosby. Over \$26 million in federal and state dollars go directly to private day-care providers. Most of that going to private home-care providers. LB 836 that Senator Wesely passed...or introduced established an advisory board specifically for the private home-care providers, the family-care providers, because they haven't had as strong a