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if they're cared for by another person. I move that these amendments be adopted.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: I would object to the adoption of the committee amendments. We're issuing another blank check for the future without knowing what we're committing ourselves for. I will support the concept of paying a hundred dollars a week to a relative or spouse if they must render care to the person, but to say that we will pay, if it happens to be...if the spouse happens to be a nurse we will pay it one rate, if it's an LPN it will be another rate, and if it's a nurse's aid it will be another rate, and whatever the going rate for that person is, we will pay. I don't think that there is any logical reason for doing this, and I would prefer that the bill were kept in its original form and that this committee amendment not be adopted.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Landis, do you wish to speak on the committee amendment?

SENATOR LANDIS: Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker. The author of the committee amendment is myself, and I support its adoption. The argument as I under Senator Murphy is saying is that this constitutes a blank check. Upon close reading of the committee amendment, you will see that it is clearly not a blank check. It lays out a standard that can be applied by the court. The court has created a series of schedules of payments based on medical care giving, and I would submit to this body that an injured party whose wife happens to be a nurse, and who chooses to be the care giver for one who needs custodial care, should be remunerated at that rate that a nurse receives. There is no reason to undervalue that service by setting an arbitrary limit at a hundred dollars. So, where the relative happens to be a nurse, or an LPN, the quote would apply at the maximum standard that they have developed for nurses and LPNs. With respect to relatives who are not licensed medical care givers, we have set out a maximum. Again, the idea is that there is no blank check in this bill. We have a maximum. The court can go below this amount, but the maximum that can be received is that amount that a nurse's aid receives. For those of you who are familiar, and Senator Clark is here, Senator Wesely is here, Senator Cullan is here, who are aware of hospitals and pharmaceutical costs, and health costs, a nurse's aid makes just barely above the minimum wage. So what we're talking about in this bill is setting