

idea of a day care tax credit. Now, these are people that have the ability to pay for child care and they pay for child care and we have a federal tax credit now for these people, including myself, and the state is wanting to piggyback and work with that federal credit and provide a portion of that credit in addition in a state tax credit. And the concern I raised with that bill is that before we can deal with these individuals that have the ability to pay for child care and provide them assistance, we need to recognize there are families and individuals out there without the ability to pay for child care that have to rely on Title XX. What's happening with Title XX is that the reimbursement is simply too low. If you look at, again, the hardout that I have, you will find that typically in a day care home you have a reimbursement, the maximum unit rate evidently is \$30.00 a week. Well, in my own circumstance, I pay \$55.00 a week minimum and more than that is what you frequently will have to pay if you have a newborn baby or...or circumstances in other cities will have a higher reimbursement rate. Thirty dollars is what we're paying. Fifty-five dollars is what the market is calling for. You can't even go into somebody and ask for day care at the rates that we're reimbursing at. It's an insult. And there are those that are good-hearted individuals out there that are taking in these Title XX families and children but, unfortunately, not enough are able to do that, it's at a loss. And the providers, the day care home providers and the child care center providers, the providers in general are saying enough is enough, we've gone now since 1983 without a rate adjustment, that's almost six years, we're at maybe half of what we should be getting and we think it's wrong. We think an adjustment is in order. Now when we talk about these families and these children, we're talking about something like over the course of a year close to 15,000 children that are under the program. On a month to month basis we're talking about over 5,000 children, but, again, they come in and they go in and they go off of the system. So that's why you have over a course of a year 15,000 children that come under Title XX services but in any given month maybe something like 5,000 on Title XX. Again, we're trying to provide the transition to get people off of the welfare and into the work force and this is the program that provides for that by providing on a temporary basis, by and large, child care assistance. The problem in addition to the low reimbursement rate for the providers is the qualification that it takes to actually receive this service. Right now, for instance, with a family of...two in a family you would have to earn less than \$3.34 per hour or that would be...that's the