

minimum wage right now, if you earned less than that, you would get day care provided free. More than that, up to \$4.84 an hour, and you have a sliding scale in which you pay part of the cost of day care. If you think about that, after \$775 per month you're on your own in terms of paying for day care. And, as I said, typically, you're talking about 225, maybe \$250 a month for each child for day care. That's really tough on a family to try and, on a low income job, making \$800 a month, to provide for day care. We're not trying to address that with this amendment but I'm just raising that as an issue that we are short of meeting the need for this group of low income families to provide for day care and we do have a sliding fee schedule for these low income people. And one of the parts of this amendment is to adjust that fee schedule so nobody, as we up the reimbursement rate, will pay more fees. There is a hold harmless provision in this amendment so that we adjust those fee schedules. But we still have a problem...I mean, these are the poorest of the poor, these are people without work or with such low paying jobs, there is just absolutely no way they're going to be able to afford to take care of that child in day care. And it's Title XX that has to come to the rescue and Title XX right now is simply unreimbursing the providers and so a couple of things happen. Number one that happens, you can't get a day care provider to take these children. They say that...they just say that we don't want to do it, we can't get enough money. The other thing that happens is you do find a provider but they're not a very good quality provider in some cases. Some very good providers out there with good hearts, again, are taking in these children and doing a good job for them. But the other side of the coin is you just can't find anybody. They say, no, and so you turn to somebody who is willing to accept the lower reimbursement rate but then you have a lower quality problem. They're not getting the money and so they...the Title XX child doesn't get what the other children get or they just are in a home that is not of the kind of quality we would like to see for our children. That's not right. Just because you're poor, just because you're out there trying to struggle on a minimum wage job doesn't mean your kids ought not to have a decent day care center, decent day care services. And I simply think that we're being discriminatory right now against our low income families trying to struggle, trying to make it happen and aren't able to get...get the personal money or the Title XX reimbursement they need. And so I am saying that to be fair, to be compassionate we need to do something about this problem. I have passed out another sheet in this handout that deals with different