

providers and what they say.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: And what they clearly indicate is that they're tired, they're not going to continue to do this, that they want the Legislature to intervene. Six years is long enough to wait for something to happen on Title XX. And I hope you get a chance to read some of those letters because these are good people that are trying to do a good thing here in helping these low income families but they're just saying, we can't do it anymore, we've got to have help. Now, the Appropriations Committee has recognized this and we have communicated about it. The problem that we have is how much money we're talking about and that's the part of it that you probably don't want to hear but it's the part you have to realize. We're talking about 2.5 million more dollars is what we need to do to bring our market rate...our reimbursements up to market rate and that's a lot of money and I recognize that but that just shows how far short we are in dealing with this problem. And until we can address that issue, we will continue to have these low income families not going into the job force, not putting their kids into child care or putting them in there and finding them not having the sort of quality care that they want. And so, in my estimation, this is a very important problem and very...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR WESELY: ...very significant and I hope that as we get into the discussion you will recognize that as well and we can work together to find a solution to this problem.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Before discussion of the Wesely amendment, I am pleased to announce that Senator Goodrich has 39 fourth grade students from Rockbrook Elementary in Omaha, in the north balcony with their teachers. Would you folks please stand and wave. Thank you. We're glad to have you. Also, Senator Abboud has a special guest under the south balcony, Mr. Akihiro Fujita from Tokyo, Japan. Please stand, sir. Thank you. We're very glad to have you with us this morning. Discussion on the amendment, Senator Scofield, followed by Senator Crosby.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Wesely has done a good job of communicating with the committee on this