

area of which low income individuals, and here we are talking about tremendously low income families, simply unable to afford child care. And we try to provide in this state some minimal assistance. Right now they're at 60 percent of the market rate, we would go up to 80 percent of the market rate. But they really should be at 100 percent of the market rate because the market right now is inadequate. We're talking about people that get \$1 an hour for watching for these children. Now, I know that we're trying to raise Medicaid reimbursements and we're looking at trying to help out in that regard. But there you're talking about \$20 for five minutes or ten minutes for a doctor to look at...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...low income individuals. I think we need to do far better for our children in child care situations. So, I'm going to accept these amendments and feel that we've done some good here. But I also want you to know that 678 will be back, and 720 will be back, and we need to do more. They won't have a chance to come up this year, but we'll move in the right direction and hopefully we will conclude this next session by passing those pieces of legislation so that we can ultimately try and help our children to have adequate child care, and in cases of abuse have adequate protection from abuse. So, again, I do appreciate the committee amendments and I would rise in support of them.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I'll speak about these two amendments. Concerning the caseworkers I think that Senator Scofield and Senator Wesely both stated it very well as to what we need. I won't dwell on that a whole lot, except to say that it is a problem that society faces these days, and this is one way we can help to address it. If you know social workers, I'm sure you all do, caseworkers suffer burnout. I don't believe I could do it, I don't believe I could go every day, and every day, and every day to the families that are having problems and try and look after the children and try to do something for them. Those who are there do a fine job. We've had cases in our office where they reacted very quickly and helped us when a child was having a problem, when we get a call from a school or somewhere. So the caseworker amendment I am all for, and hope that we can do better next year. The