

traditional fashion and I'm very glad to see that people have that opportunity, but for others it is not a choice that they choose to make or one that they can make in some instances. And though this bill, if you'll look at the preamble, talks about our concern for children, our concern for families and our desire that traditional upbringing would be the first approach, we also recognize that we must be supportive of those families that are not able to do that. And so what we do under this piece of legislation is a number of things. First off, for those individuals on Title XX, which, again, I appreciate your support last year for increasing reimbursement, for those individuals on Title XX, we would bring their reimbursement up to the market rate. Right now it is estimated that Title XX services are reimbursed at about 80 percent of the market rate. This is a severe disadvantage to low-income families who are trying to break out of the cycle of poverty. People on Title XX that utilize day care services are, by and large, the following: ADC recipients who are taking job training or otherwise trying to develop the skills or are on some work schedule to try to break out of poverty and into the workforce, but they need the day care services for their children as they take training or as they work. We also have those families that are off of ADC but they are so low income, their jobs pay so poorly, benefits are so nonexistent perhaps, that they simply cannot make ends meet without some assistance through the income standards under Title XX and so Title XX will provide for those low income individuals' day care services so that they can go out and work. And in addition, there are others that...in job support, some other categories, again, attempting to move off of the poverty cycle and into the workforce. But Title XX then are people that we want to see help themselves to move into the workforce and Title XX does not reimburse adequately, thus they have a difficult time finding day care, and if they find day care, they are sometimes concerned about the quality because of the low reimbursement rate. It isn't fair that if you're poor, you can't get good quality day care. You should be able to have good quality day care whether you have a large amount of money or not. Those children deserve an equal opportunity and to not have adequate Title XX reimbursement truly hurts those families and those individuals and discourages these people from taking the opportunities to move off of welfare and off of ADC and get the training and move into the jobs that we want them to do. So I think you've heard that argument last year, you've been supportive of it, I hope you will help finish the job and increase Title XX reimbursement to the market rate. In