

words, not market value. To me, market value today, it could increase the cost of the bill a million dollars in short order or a short time. Maybe on page 6, lines 16 and 17, we could change that from prevailing rates charged by nongovernmental child care providers in this state or, and then add, "each area". I'm well aware that the child care rate in Omaha is probably considerably different than even in Grand Island, let alone Wood River, Nebraska, or maybe Broken Bow, Nebraska, and so I'm very hesitant to leave that market value.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, would you respond?

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, yes, Mr. Speaker, members, Senator Nelson, another good question. You make a good point. What we're trying to do here is to recognize that you can't have one state rate, that what you pay in Omaha or Lincoln or Hastings or Grand Island will all vary. The way we did it last year, if you remember, we raised the Title XX, then they went out and did a survey and then adjusted pro rata, you know, how much money we gave them and they pro rated back off of that as close as they could get universally across the board for these rates. I'd like to stick with the concept of market rates and that will mean that it will adjust up over time, but otherwise you fall back behind again. See, these Title XX haven't been increased for seven or eight years and we just let it lag and it fell so far behind that it's really a long way to catch up. It would almost be better, if that's the concept we believe in that it shouldn't be fair for Title XX recipients to have less reimbursement than everybody else, it would be better for us just to stay with that, then every once in a while catch up in such a big lead, but I would be willing to work with you on language to specify it's not a statewide, but a localized rate. That is much fairer and I would...you make a good point, it's not as clear as it could be and I'd be willing to work with you on that.

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you. I mean, I just, as I say, I'm very hesitant to vote on anything that is wide open, simply, that's the Scotch in me I guess. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The gentleman from the 7th Legislative District, Senator Hall, Senator Smith on deck.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Senator Wesely, just a question, and I am asking this only to get it