

have an across-the-board statewide rate, but break it down into market areas, and then break it down further into different level of needs so it would better target the reimbursement rate to the actual need to again reflect the market conditions for day-care services. So it is real simple, I guess, in concept. What we are trying to do is acknowledge the concerns of Senator Nelson, Senator Smith and some others about making sure that these reimbursement rates are fair, and we hope that this amendment will clarify that and make it fairer for everybody. Senator Nelson commented about this earlier on the other amendment. So anyway I would ask your support for the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman, you didn't wish to speak about this, did you? Senator Beck, you didn't wish to speak about this? Senator Smith, would you like to close.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. After giving my time to Senator Wesely and hearing, he brought to mind the one concern that I would have a little bit about this amendment yet, and I would like to ask Senator Wesely if he'd clarify the concept of breaking it down into areas. Could you expand upon that a little bit, please?

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, would you respond, please?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, the idea would be that you'd have...an area such as Hastings would have one, but not necessarily...

SENATOR SMITH: One rate?

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah...well, yeah, or Lincoln, Omaha, you would have different prevailing market areas. Grand Island would be a different one.

SENATOR SMITH: And what is that based on, what would the rate be based on, if you are talking about a market area?

SENATOR WESELY: A survey would have to be done, I believe, within that market area, then they would get an average reimbursement for the different categories involved.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay, and now I want to make it very clear that, in addition to that, what this does is establish a uniformity as far as a reimbursement rate is within that area, so that a