

of individuals and organizations here who support this bill. I don't see any opponents. I am a little bit overwhelmed and I guess I am almost intimidated from asking questions, which is not unusual for me, but the point is I just hope that the bill does what you want it to do, and I thank you for answering those questions. I will reread the bill again and maybe be more informed on it as you move along. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, please, followed by Senator Langford, Senator Smith, Senator Beck, and Senator Lamb. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Senator...I mean Speaker Nichol. There is obviously some questions arising. I feel like we went kind of through a lot of this on General File. There was quite a lengthy debate going through some of these questions, and it is absolutely legitimate to ask those then and to ask some more now. I have no problem with that. I want to summarize for you, as briefly and succinctly as I can, exactly, again, what we are trying to do with the bill. Senator Beck was concerned about its comprehensiveness. I think it, in fact, does a lot for day care, a lot for children in the state, but it is not an onerous extensive new system being put in place that I think any of us have any fear about. Number one, Title XX is the big concern and the big expenditure in the bill. Title XX provides services in a number of areas, but in day care provides services to ADC recipients and others who are trying to move off of welfare and into the work force, for instance, and need to have day care so that they can take a job or take training or whatever their needs are to deal with their particular problems, and Title XX is what pays the reimbursement for those day care services for those individuals. These are the people that are trying to help themselves, to better themselves, and I think we clearly want to assist them, but the problem we have had is underreimbursement for their day care services. That made it difficult to find day care or to keep day care or to get the kind of quality day care that these people would like to see for their children. This will bring us up to the market rate in terms of current market rate and will call for annually a review of the market and the reflection of adjustment on the schedule, but it doesn't mean automatically that that happens. Just as in other Department of Social Services rate-setting and schedules that are developed for other reimbursements, this Legislature has to ultimately fund that and so have no fear. This Legislature will be the ultimate authority on that question, but it does set a target