

and does give a goal for the department to pursue in establishing these Title XX reimbursement rates to try to reflect the market, to do a survey within the market around the state in the different areas, and to come back with the appropriate schedule. And so the Legislature ultimately has that authority and that is not changed by this bill. In addition, as Senator Schmit asked me, we do recognize problems with rules and regulations, and Senator Smith's amendment I think dealt with some of the rules and regs changes that were positive for the state. Further rules and regs changes are always necessary. It is an ongoing process and now there will be an advisory committee there to assist the department to do the best job possible on rules and regulations. There is an early childhood education panel established under the Department of Education. Its intent is to serve as a coordinating body to have the different agencies, the different people involved with early childhood programs, which we are talking here about day care primarily, to work together, to know what each other is doing, and then also to see about recommendations for improvements. They really don't have any authority on their own other than to make recommendations and to work with the different agencies to improve coordination and service delivery. There is a requirement of four hours training for day care home providers. It is a minimal amount, four hours a year, but this would allow them a chance for those four hours to come together to have some training, to know about resources. One of the big things we found in our research in day care is a lot of these particularly family day care home operators not knowing about resources and opportunities and where information may be, and this is an attempt to work with them, to assist them, and to make sure that we provide assistance to them. In addition, there is a hot line for providers to call, if they have questions, that is provided under the bill, and other types of assistance are hoped for through the ongoing work that is established under these committees. So I think, as you can see, it is an attempt to help day care home providers, to help children, to help families with children in day care. It is I think not something to be feared, although there are those who would like you to be fearful. The one letter that...there were two letters read by Senator Beck. First from the Auburn Superintendent and he threw in all kinds of different problems with schools...

PRESIDENT: One minute.