provision, also, which would have increased the appropriations for respite care which, incidentally, was running at...it was reimbursed at the rate of $2 an hour and it was running about $4,000 a year as far as cost. That was to be increased to $5 an hour and then there was an increase of $5 per day for Title XX adult day care. Though cost of the bill had it been...if it is approved as introduced is about a million, five, $1,494,000 General Fund money, and $1,442,000 in federal funds for the first year, and then some increase, obviously, for the second year. What the committee amendment does, we recognize that certainly there was a need for some increase in these areas. In part because of the change in the minimum wage, there will be an increase for some of these in the area of untrained personal care aides that will be taking effect on April 1 which goes from 3.35 to 3.85 per hour. What the committee amendment does, however, it reduces the number of areas down to one which was a personal care aide with 21 hours of training and would increase those salaries from 3.70 per hour to $5.00 an hour. The bill, as introduced, I believe was to increase it to 5.50. The cost, as it is with the committee amendment, is $180,000 in General Fund for the current year and $150,000, approximately, the following year in General Fund money. In trying to resolve this issue and visiting with the department and others who had some responsibility, the indication was or, at least, it was the feeling that this particular area of the personal care aides was by far the highest priority for increased funding. There was far more problems with turnover in direct care and it was important to make some increase there. Another thing I will point out, as LB 1126 is situated, being an appropriation bill by itself, it then, too, becomes part of the A bill allocations as opposed to, if you are interested in the green sheet, and, obviously, we attempted to pick out through the committee amendment what we understood to be the most important area of stress, although I would not argue that any of them are overpaid, but that was the purpose of the amendment was to try to select what appeared to us as being the highest priority for additional funding, and that is what the committee amendment will do.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Discussion on the committee amendment? Senator Wesely, followed by Senator Lynch.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I want to rise and just say a few words and certainly let Senator Lynch address the heart of the issue. Senator Lynch chaired a study