

on caregiving under the Health and Human Services Committee and did an excellent job of it, examining a number of different areas of need in this field. His task force came back with a number of recommendations dealing with setting up a caregiving program and dealing with this underreimbursement problem. I think the proposal that was developed by Senator Lynch's task force, everyone of those can be justified and I understand the limits that we have on finances and understand why the committee is attempting to amend this down, but I just want to reiterate how serious a problem we have. The respite care rates of \$2 an hour right now are simply inadequate. Two dollars an hour seems preposterous. I understand there are some considerations, family members frequently provide this, but still \$2 an hour in today's day and age is unbelievable. The day care rates from 7.50 to \$10 a day currently are woefully inadequate and are less than half or more below what the actual cost is for those, and neither one of those needs were addressed by the committee amendment. The committee did address, to some degree, the personal care aide rates and I, for one, appreciate at least some version of the bill coming out. I simply would add my concern that the other needs are still there. Anytime this Legislature begins to see a problem, you don't, I guess, expect that problem to be solved right away. On the child care Title XX reimbursement, we did half of the job last year, hopefully, we will do the other half of the job this year. And I guess you learn to expect to solve problems over a period of time but we do have a problem here and it is a serious problem and, again, I feel that we will need to do more. Maybe we can't do it this year, maybe this bill won't be able to accomplish it, but I think we are at least starting down the road and, hopefully, we will finish that job in the near future because right now Title XX in this area is woefully inadequate. And, again, I want to praise Senator Lynch and the task force for the good work they did in identifying these problems, and, hopefully, sometime soon we will be able to begin to address those problems.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, and members, I owe it to over 35 people who, from all walks of life, volunteered a lot of time this summer to review this particular problem and make some recommendations for their hard work which resulted in this legislation. It did, in fact, only involve money and appropriately it did go to an Appropriations Committee. I, like