

Senator Wesely, want to tell you I don't intend to offer any amendments or suggest we vote against the committee amendments, which would have the same effect, because if the committee amendments were defeated, it would return the bill to the form that we sent it to the Appropriations Committee, which would include funding all three of the areas described by Senator Warner. However, I do want to point out to you that the people that do this kind of work don't belong to any union, and they don't work in any other...most of them have no other opportunity. They are not given benefits because of that, so when you look at two bucks an hour or even minimum wage, you are not looking at other kind of benefits that they may receive, like health and accident, like a pension program, or any other kind of an employment benefit most people receive. Also, most importantly, at a time that we have such high medical costs, the most important thing we can do is to find alternatives to people being institutionalized in hospitals, and more and more, given the DRG system established by President Reagan some years ago where, in fact, deadlines are established for about 400 and some procedures and, in fact, some people put out of institutions sometimes they claim before their time, most times I hope not and don't think so, but, nevertheless, still needing some help, caregiving is vital and important and it applies not just to elderly people but those people who are physically disabled because of automobile accidents, motorcycle accidents, or whatever it might be. Try to find somebody for 3.70 an hour who would come in at, say, three o'clock or two o'clock in the afternoon when somebody you love comes home from the hospital and they need to be there because they are in a wheelchair, they can't go to the bathroom by themselves, can't eat, can't go up and down stairs, are incontinent, and it is difficult. It is tough work, and it is a terrible thing that we can only pay them this much to do this important work, indeed. It also is probably the most, if not the most, one of the most cost-effective things we can do. The more help we can give in the form of caregiving, the less we will have to consider continually raising in an almost obnoxious way health care costs as we know them today. I have got to throw this in, too, an editorial comment, when we talk about capping off how much governments can spend, it would be interesting for us to consider at the same time if we cap off at 2 percent, all third party, second party, and first party people doing business with that jurisdiction. For example, if a health insurance company says your health insurance costs are going to go up 18 percent, the jurisdiction because there is a cap would say, no, only