

Caregiving is that service of providing assistance to the elderly for children, for the handicapped, for disabled, and we find in this particular area that personal care aides are getting paid very poorly. They get 3.35 minimum wage that will be going up here shortly but we would like to take them to \$5 and hour, if they have completed training. The cost of this is about \$180,000. The first year of that brings in about \$300,000 in federal funds. It goes down in cost in General Funds to 149,000 the next year and then 250,000 of federal fund. By not providing adequate reimbursement to these individuals, you have the likelihood of these disabled individuals going into home health care agencies which cost much more nursing home care. And so, in fact, this is a cost effective way to meet their needs. It's also a humane way to meet their needs. These individuals are unable to care for themselves. They need to have this assistance and this reimbursement is woefully inadequate. So I think it's cost effective and in addition this is a much smaller version of the bill, LB 1126 would have cost much more than this, but this was picked as the highest need by the Appropriations Committee and we went along with that delineation, bringing it down to this level. Certainly, we can at least do this much to help in the caregiving for these individuals. There was a young man who was getting a hold of me and was in the back of the room on crutches who is desperately in need of this assistance, as there are many other individuals across the state, faceless and voiceless. But, hopefully, you will listen to them and care about them and vote for this assistance so that they might continue to have individuals helping them who will do a good job, provide them with the dignity that they deserve. With that, I would ask for your support for this override.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Warner, please, followed by Senator Byars.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Wesely has outlined pretty clearly what the action of the Appropriations Committee was on this and what the initial cost, as well as the initial services that would have been provided. Personally, I think this is a modest amount of money relative to the total problem. And I also believe that the kind of care that is provided and would be reimbursed from these are for individuals where most certainly it ought to be done. And I would hope that the body would override this veto in order to make some small adjustment in the salaries for those people who