

think in some cases, over 30 percent of an individual's income going to child care and the committee was concerned about the burden that would place on a low-income family, the burden that would place on any family, as a matter of fact, and so we have a maximum of 20 percent as for the gross income that can go to child care under the fee schedule adopted by the...or that will be adopted by the Department of Social Services. The next amendment deals with extreme hardship and that issue was amended by the committee to more clearly define what extreme hardship is and under the committee amendment it would be that a family does not have adequate cash resources to meet the costs of food and housing without continuing assistance or that the children are at risk of losing care by and residence with their parent or parents. It's an attempt to flush that out more than it was in the current proposal of what extreme hardship is by the Department of Social Services. The next part of the committee amendments deals with an advisory committee for representatives of nonprofit agencies and the public. This committee would exist for three years as we move through the transition from the current welfare system to the new welfare system. The reason that the committee put this into the bill is that, at the hearing and at a previous hearing that Senator Crosby had on a bill that she had, private nonprofit agencies that are the safety net of the private sector, that would be churches, United Way, Salvation Army, all of those groups that are out there to take care of the needy are very concerned about changes in the welfare system and what ultimately might trickle on down to them in terms of added costs and responsibility and they want to have a chance to have input in the process of moving from the current system to the new system, so we acknowledge that and established an advisory committee to the department to allow for that input. The next item deals with the question of health care. When we did the study two years ago of welfare reform, the bottom line consensus was that we would have health care eventually for everyone in this country, that there was talk of national health reform, that there would be federal legislation that would achieve universal coverage of Americans and we put that issue aside and there was also the Blue Ribbon Task Force looking at health care in Nebraska that had likewise had that goal of trying to find a way to cover all Nebraskans. But times have changed since we passed the bill, 1224, last year. We have seen a complete collapse of initiative at the federal level on health care and the state is having to look at what role we should play and all this amendment talks about in the committee amendment is that we would have the intent of trying to work toward universal