

coverage in health care and that the Governor would work on an annual basis to develop a plan to first try and provide coverage for children and youth and eventually all Nebraskans, but I must say that it's a lofty goal without particular teeth, but it's a goal that is an underpinning of the concept of welfare reform and we can talk about that if you wish, but the idea is that that's a very important part of welfare reform and we need to include it and not lose sight of it. So that is included in the committee amendment. The next item in the committee amendments deals with the standard of need for ADC. Currently, the standard of need for ADC is the payment level, 293 for a family, a month for a family of two, the mother and child, and we want to disengage the standard of need from the payment and allow it to increase as the Consumer Price Index increases, again, not until two years from now but on an every two-year basis it would be adjusted. The reason for that is that we have only increased the standard of need, I think in my 17 years, one time and clearly it does not reflect the actual need of the poor in our state and if we disengage it from the payment level, we will better reflect what it was intended to be, that is the level of need in terms of assistance without having to adjust the payment that would go along with it. That would be separated out, so that is a recognition of a problem that we've had and would solve that problem by placing a biennial adjustment reflecting Consumer Price Index increases. Another problem that we've had in the past that is included in the committee amendments deals with child care. A couple of years ago we passed a bill that attempted to have a market survey and then a reimbursement for child care provided by the Department of Social Services to low-income individuals adjusted. We had a severe problem of child care providers not providing child care to not only ADC recipients but others who have low incomes and qualify for child care assistance through the State of Nebraska and, again, this is a partnership with the federal government. But we were finding that these low-income people could not get any child care because child care providers were so woefully underreimbursed. We did adjust upward the reimbursement level but now for about four years it has not been adjusted again and we're back into the situation where you fall behind in the market and you end up not being able to get providers to provide care. So again, we put into it an inflation factor that would include the CPI and make an adjustment on a biennial basis. That is the...and the last item which I've already mentioned is the fact that a couple of the items that were requested in terms of waivers were not granted by the federal government and so we