

and Human Services to come forward with cost estimates on these areas of the bill that they would like us to adopt, at least so we can make an informed decision when we're being asked to make a decision about this. And cost, to me, is very important. When we're talking about welfare reform I would like to know exactly what my decisions are encompassing, and you have no idea what this is going to cost. Senator Bohlke discussed this with me over lunch hour and said \$12 million. I hope she'll expand on that and tell me is that in addition to what we're spending now or if that's the entire amount that we'll be spending in the next...in 1997, in the year 1997. It says that we're supposed to have a baseline, it doesn't say whether we...I guess we begin again in July of this year for a baseline on the market survey, and then adjust it again in 1997, and I assume it would be to raise it. And if we're going to be doing welfare reform instead of welfare expansion, which is what I think the body has been doing this morning, you should at least know what the costs are for these provisions because, if you read in the bill itself, we are going to be expanding child care for an additional year. Right now we provide for 12 months, we're going to go to 24 months. So this could be a very expensive portion of the bill. And without any of us knowing how much this is going to cost or what affect this is going to have on our state budgets, the Appropriations Committee has got to have some concern for the body adopting something like this. If you're trying to set two-year budgets and you're setting a budget this year, then you should at least know what the possible impact of adopting this amendment will be. I think they've had enough time since this amendment was passed out of committee to get us some decent fiscal information, and I've got my staff calling around to some of the child care providers in Omaha who, I assume, would be the most expensive or somewhat more expensive than most of the state. Lincoln and Omaha would probably be the most expensive child care providers. And if you go zero to whatever the highest is in Omaha, you've got a hefty sum of money that you're paying out for child care across the state that I don't think that the cost of that will be the actual cost incurred. So I'd like to see us going in the direction more of reimbursing to the actual cost incurred and making adjustments across the state for areas of the state that may be more expensive than others, and going in those directions instead of just saying that we're going to do a market survey and that's going to be the reimbursement rate and we're going to adjust that every two years. So I introduced this to strike that language from the bill. I don't agree that this is the direction that we need to