

go in these areas, and if we're going to expand, if the majority of people want to expand the child care provision for an extra year, I think we should have the data on what we're spending now and what that expansion would incur and what the adoption of this portion of this amendment would cost the State of Nebraska. And I hope we get some good discussion here on the child care provisions in state aid. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Madam President, members, I thought Senator Witek was going to ask me some questions. I'm not quite sure, I was listening and I'm not sure if there was a question there or not. But let me try to explain a little bit of the question she raised that we talked about over the lunch hour. First, Senator Witek said that she had some concern that we do a survey every two years. And as I explained to her, that's because of the federal law that we have to do that. And she then asked me what was the cost, and I said I wasn't sure. So over lunch I did try to check on that, Senator Witek. What they do is that oftentimes when they're getting other information from those child care providers they also include the survey that we're talking about. And so it's very minimal cost to doing that every two years. But what they do is they look at what is the lowest cost of child care and what is the highest cost. And so we...to explain this and to make it easy, let's say the lowest cost is zero and the highest cost is \$100 a week. We currently pay up to 75 percent, we pay all of that child care up to 75 percent. If someone chooses to go beyond that, between the 75 percent and the higher cost of 100 percent, they pay for that difference. Now each year when we have done that two-year evaluation, we have not adjusted that standard. And so the last time that was adjusted was in 1991. If we then move to 1997, and I think this was Senator Witek's other question, that would have a cost of \$12 million. And so there wasn't an A bill on this. When I saw the amendment I simply called the department, which I'm sure any of us could have done, and the A bill...or the cost of doing this actually would be \$12,337,136. So I think those were your main questions, Senator Witek. You can just nod yes or no, all right. And I hope that helped to explain to the rest of you some of the questions that she raised. I have some concerns of what the cost of this brings to the bill, as I'm sure some of the other speakers will say to you if we had made the adjustments all along, we would not have to make the adjustment from 1991 to 1997. But those of you who