

have been here in that time, and the time in the last years when we come to the budget and look how we have cut the budget, if you would have...would you think that last year or the last time we did the budget we would have added money in for this? I remember standing here cutting the budget and cutting numerous things. And so that's the reason we didn't, we didn't feel that we could afford it. And I hope that I've provided the information necessary. I'll be happy to answer any other questions.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Wesely, your light is next, followed by Senators Brown, Crosby, Schimek and Chambers.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members. First off, I think you should set aside the \$12 million figure, Senator Bohlke, and others who are listening, because I think that that figure is an attempt to try to harm the effort to raise this issue and try and deal with the child care subsidy. That figure is based on a number of factors. Number one, it says we're going to go to 75 percentile. This amendment does not say that. It says, "it shall be adjusted". Currently, we're down to about 60 percentile, I believe is the guess right now. We were at 75 percentile in '91. We didn't do anything in '93, and we dropped to 67 percentile; the thought is we'll drop further down to 60 percentile in '95, and then, obviously, if we wait until '97, we'll drop even further, maybe down close to the 50 percentile. And the thought is that then we have to bring ourselves all the way up to 75 percentile. But number one error is that this doesn't say you have to go to 75, you simply have to make an adjustment. Number two, the point is that by letting us slip further into the hole, once again just like on the standard of need, when it comes time to reconcile, when it comes time to deal with the issue you get yourself so far behind you have a much bigger increase than would have been the case if you'd simply kept up and tried on an incremental basis to stay on top of the problem, which is the point of this amendment. We shouldn't let ourselves slip so far behind in the reimbursement rate on child care that we get into a problem where we get into in the late 1980s. We were, at that time, if I remember accurately, about 40 percent below the market rate, and at that time we weren't able to get the child care providers to take in Title XX and other recipients of child care services. We had a crisis. We had to then put in millions of additional dollars to make up for the fact that we hadn't been keeping up and we did