

SENATOR WESELY: ...and if those women are to get work, they're going to need child care, we all recognize that. So if you have good child care, you're going to lessen the fear of those women of taking a job, you're going to lessen the chance of that child having a problem and you're going to have good child care for that child, and you're going to encourage the mother to move into the workforce and not have the fears that you have when you have inadequate child care. You let it drop you let it get into a situation where no one will provide care for the child, or those that do are not particularly good child care providers, you're not going to help welfare reform, you're going to hurt welfare reform. If you want welfare reform, you need good and adequate child care. As we've done the studies on welfare over the years, it was health care that drove people into welfare and it was child care that drove people into welfare. And we dealt with the health care issue earlier this morning. I'm suggesting we deal with the child care issue. You got to have good child care out there, and if you do, the chances of welfare reform succeeding are much, much greater. So again I encourage you to oppose the Witek amendment. This language again, read it carefully, it doesn't require going to 75 percentile,...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR WESELY: ...simply that some adjustment is made so we don't fall into the hole again further.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Madam President, members of the body, to follow up on Senator Wesely's explanation about where the \$12 million figure came from, currently in our Title XX we have a sliding fee scale that pays those individuals who are near the poverty line, and that fee scale goes up to 110 percent of poverty. We have been looking...we are currently in need of additional state funds in order to even accommodate the existing sliding fee scale, and the Department of Social Services is looking at adjusting eligibility downward so that we would no longer be at 110 percent of poverty but probably closer to 90 percent of poverty. In order to be able to adjust the payments, that would be just to keep us where we are right now, but to be able to adjust the payments upward to get closer to the 75th percentile it would cost a great deal more money. But I think the \$12 million encompasses the Title XX recipients that currently