

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And I'm just asking to get the meaning of the language.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm not saying that's what you would do. Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. The reason I wanted to have that little exchange so that it would be clear that what I'm going to say next is not a misconstruction of the language. I do not want to leave this issue of reimbursement up to the whim of the Legislature or a Governor. If the Governor came in here with a budget and there were other programs that members of the Legislature wanted, this is a vulnerable area as we have seen in this year's budget and other budgets and by vulnerable area I meant those that relate to poor children and poor women. This amount could be cut and probably would be cut. So what my amendment would do, instead of saying that the amount would be up to 75 percent, percentile of the market rate, mine would say not less than 75 percent. What has been indicated is that the federal government will make money available to reimburse 75 percent of this child care. Let me get that right first.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wehrbein, I'd like to ask you a question on that.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Forget the one minute, Senator Chambers, you are opening and you have much more time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Senator Wehrbein, did you say that the federal government, unless there are extraordinary circumstances, would reimburse 75 percent?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: That's their maximum limit that they...yes. And they also, to make it clear they mandate the survey every two years so that's why we do it by the way. That's why it is done.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right. And I'm, not even challenging that. That's why I wanted...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I understand. I'm just trying to clarify the issue. Thank you.