

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wesely, if nothing is done and we...or we accept Senator Wehrbein's amendment as it's written where 75 percent is the ceiling, but there is no minimum, what kind of problem can result and are you aware of any problem existing now because of the rate of reimbursement? Senator Bohlke said she's not aware of any problem at this time based on that.

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, the problem...we didn't have problems after we readjusted it in '91 and we went from about 55, I think, up to 75. It was very expensive to do, but we solved the problem and day care was provided to these low income families. Now I'm starting to see again in the last year or two day care providers have come to me in my district, elsewhere, who have said we can't do it anymore. Unless there's an adjustment in this reimbursement rate we're going to start dropping caring for low income families, so it's already started again, it's repeating itself. And as we continue not to adjust it will only get worse and we won't find day care for these children and these people that want to go into work and training and whatever on welfare won't be able to do it, so yeah, the problem is starting all over again.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, I'd like to ask Senator Bohlke a question. Senator Bohlke, if you accept that as being an accurate reflection of what the true situation is relative to obtaining child care, if you accept that as being true, how can this bill be deemed to be anything other than a political hoax as I have said, but I can be shown to be wrong. If we're being shown that this problem of obtaining child care providers is with us, the bill purports to make child care available so that the women can work. But there are not providers willing to take their children and provide care because of the low rate of reimbursement. If that is a problem, is the bill being honest and straightforward in indicating that child care will be provided?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Senator Chambers, when I asked, like I indicated to you before, they said there had been sporadic problems. It is not an overall problem. That's the information I have been given, that at times it has been a sporadic problem but it has not been an overwhelming problem.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.