

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members, in response to the floor debate on this issue and the discussion we have a number of senators who have cosigned an amendment to set a range rather than having just the maximum. Senator Wehrbein's amendment set the maximum at 75 percent but it didn't have a minimum and I think the floor debate has indicated that not having that is of great concern. So the range that we're offering is 60 to 75 percent. It makes, as I argued before, we are in the range now of about 60 to 63 percent in terms of reimbursement rate. We're already starting to see providers drop off from providing care to ADC mothers and others on these programs. If we get below 60 percent we will have disaster along the lines of the late eighties. There's no reason we shouldn't avoid that by taking this step and I don't know if, Senator Wehrbein, if you'd like...I'll give the rest of my time to Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, it is under great duress and with extreme, extreme reluctance that I'm going to support this and I want Senator Chambers, if he would mind listening to what I say. One of the reasons I'm doing this and I realize it's an early amendment and I don't want to play God, don't misunderstand, Senator Chambers, but I'm willing to compromise on this if I think that we could move through this bill with good faith on everyone's part and do something. This is not something I want to do, but I also think that we have legitimate debate here that should be done. We've done so on the crime bill to quite an extent and some other issues. I do not mind taking eight hours or more on legitimate debate and that is my offer here. It's not a bribe, it's not a threat, it's simply saying that I'm trying to do something here to move this issue and I would like to see good faith on everyone participating in this and see if we can't move. I do not like particularly to do this. I realize we have a responsibility to set a floor but it bothers me to do that because it is the very type of mandate that we have been getting to do over and over again. Senator Wesely is right. We have...we get too far behind and then we have extreme trouble and we have to work to make up. On the other hand I have taken some heat in the last few days which I expect, it goes with the job, I've learned that