

willing to do it, and I choose to be that somebody or let me say, I have no choice other than to be that somebody. If another amendment comes along to raise that floor a bit, I'm going to support that amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by Senator Wesely and others and I do appreciate the effort at compromise that it's offered in, but frankly what it does is it leaves us exactly where we are. Senator Wesely said earlier that we're approximately at 60 percent of reimbursement for purposes of where the current structure is now. We're paying 75 percent but we're paying 75 percent of a 1991 survey. What we are going to do through this amendment, I guess at once the point in time we survey the state again, there will be an increase but there is no increase on the horizon for purposes of these individuals. What you're looking at and think about it, think about it in relation to your own business or businesses that you're familiar with. What you're saying is that we are going to allow individuals to pay, in other words, the state to pay 60 percent of the going rate, 60 percent of the cost of child care. How many of us in any other endeavor or any other business could afford to pay to that provider or to that service provider or sell at product at 60 percent of the market rate? Basically what we're saying is, the state gets a 40 percent discount, that's what we're saying, a 40 percent discount. I don't think that you are going to solve the problem with the 60 percent floor. I don't know that 65 percent would work. It would be a lot better, it would be a 10 percent differential for purposes if dealing with the high and the low end. That might be enough to do it. I can't amend Senator Wesely's amendment because it's an amendment to an amendment and probably something that Senator Wehrbein, based on his earlier comments, could not support. But I can't support the 60 percent just because, even though I do appreciate the good faith that it was brought forward in, the issue is one where I don't think it gets us in any better situation. If we're merely talking about money and how money is going to continue to be the problem in this area and we want to allow for a 60 percent floor, money will always be the problem, we will continue to have problems finding care givers who will provide the services at 60 cents on the dollar because that's what you're talking about. And hopefully at some point we will be