

able to pay that 75 percent, maybe we will, I don't know. If they are paying it at 75 percent now, if they intend to pay it at 75 percent, then why not build it in at that level. Why not just say that this is one of the costs we are going to bear with regard to child care, with regard to welfare reform, with regard to helping people get back and become productive, tax-paying citizens. That's a very easy thing I think for us to stand up and do. The issue that Senator Wehrbein raised regarding the, I guess, constructive debate on these issues is the reason I divided the question. I firmly believe that each and every one of these are important concepts that need to be debated. Some of them I have every intention of supporting, others I do not. This one needs to be corrected and I believe it's a watershed issue on this amendment at a minimum with regard to how we're going to take care of the child care issue. The 60 to 75, I think, is a good faith effort but I think it needs to be closer. That gap is far too wide when you're looking at really 20 percent of the total that would be paid out.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENSON: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: That's what the 15 percent range amounts to and you're looking at more than likely a 60 percent payout which represents 60 cents on the dollar, these types of operations that run on a very thin margin. They pay their staff very poorly. They are very difficult operations to maintain and I believe what we're going to see is a continued problem that we have experienced in the past, just perpetuated with a floor that in essence allows 60 percent to be paid back out. Again, I rise in opposition to the amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENSON: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bernard-Stevens, members of the Legislature, I think the most important thing we can do on a bill like this, which is so highly visible, is that we say what we mean and we mean what we say and that when we put provisions in the bill that are tough on welfare recipients that we ought to be clear on what they are and we ought to follow through on what we require. On the other hand, when we put provisions in the bill in return for those tougher provisions, provisions designed to help people get off welfare if we really mean we want to help people get off welfare, obviously then this child care provision, especially as it provides for transition, is