

important in its key. And if obviously there is not enough money there to actually provide that, then we don't really mean what we say, do we? And so I'm in the same position as Senator Wehrbein. I think that fair-minded people would have to agree that creating a range between 60 and 75 percent is probably the least we should do to ensure all who are watching this process that in fact we say what we mean or we mean what we say, and we mean what we say. I wanted to remind you that we have a transitional child care provision in here that provides that once a family gets off welfare but they're not quite to the point of economic self-sufficiency that child care is available to them, up to a certain level above poverty, and it's available for an additional 24 months. And I wanted to also remind you though that we put a provision in here that says that the recipient family may be required to contribute up to 20 percent of such families gross income for child care. So even with the contribution that we would be making to child care in this transitional child care section, we are also going to be requiring the family to be responsible and to contribute a share of that child care to the extent that they are financially able. So it's a matter of commitment, it's a matter of what your real commitment is. And if we really mean what we say about this child care we ought not be afraid to put the floor in as well as the ceiling with respect to the child care reimbursement percentages. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, I do pay for child care. I have a daughter in child care and I mix up the child care between...child care between before and after school care and care within the neighborhood so that she can play with some friends from the neighborhood. So I am paying for child care. And the differences in the cost, even in that setting, the differences within the community care with friends and women within my neighborhood that take care of children and set the child care at a certain amount and cover the costs of food and kind of keep it to a lower amount because they were usually, most of these women, as far as I know all of them are staying home with their own children at that time. It just gives them an opportunity to stay home with their own children and not go right back into the work force and kind of help out some of the families who are in the work force. It's something that we've done, and I did the same thing. So that care is a little less