

force, single parents are working in the work force, that if more are working then logically there is more child care cost associated with that. So if you would use the balance of my time to justify why that range at 40 to 45 percent utilization which has about...if you net it all out, that's about a million dollars in General Fund cost, 2.5 million in total fund cost. If you would, please, explain for the record and for my comfort level why that...why that utilization rate wasn't plugged in the fiscal note.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes, Senator Moore, I appreciate you asking the question. You are correct in saying that it's difficult to say with any exact preciseness about the actual cost of this legislation, but let me tell you that one of the things that was done in determining this child care cost was to look at the number of families that are existing using child care...that are presently using child care support, estimating some increase and been building the basis for the fiscal note from the department anyway on a number of families as opposed to a percentage utilization. But I think, in all fairness to the body as they look at this, we ought to realize that if it is going to do what we hope it does, and that is better support for people while they go to work, that it's likely that it could be higher than what is being estimated here at...what ends up being about a 45 percent increase, but I think it could be higher than that. What they tried to build it on was the number of families that they thought would use it.

SENATOR MOORE: And also, Senator Rasmussen, is it not possible the state would pay more out for child care costs than they would in actual ADC payments?

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: I think that is possible.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: I...I couldn't answer for sure but I think that is possible. One of the other factors that's in here is what is that sliding fee scale going to be and also taking a look at the existing policy which has been to give child care support on the basis of the size of the family as opposed to the number of children who are actually utilizing child care. And so all this questioning and revisiting this policy has caused us to say maybe we need to reexamine what we're doing there. It may mean a realignment of the dollars that we've been using on