

answer any questions, if there are any. And I will listen to the discussion. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Speaker Baack. Senator Horgan, followed by Senator Withem.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Madam President and members. First of all, I want to thank Speaker Baack for, I think, clearing up some of the misperception that may have been gone on originally when this amendment was debated. And want to reiterate some of the points he made, that the amendment, as proposed, does not affect any other students, other than those 28 students, 11 families who reside within the Omaha Public School District, yet many of them, even since 1980, have been opting out of the district and going to District 66 schools. And throughout that period of time they've been paying the tuition. This is not a point forward amendment. No additional students will be allowed to opt out of the Omaha Public Schools, only those students who had opted out of the system prior to 1989-90 will be eligible to participate, and as far as we know that affects 28 to 33 students, 11 families. There is no implication in this amendment that students going to parochial or private schools will be able to use this amendment as a basis from which they can then say, well we've never participated in the Omaha Public Schools, and, therefore, we ought to be able to opt out also. There also...it needs to be understood that these families did not leave the Omaha Public School District based on a white flight out of the district question. And District 66 has rather rigid guidelines in which over the years they've been accepting these students from the Omaha Public Schools. Most of these students, not all of them, but most of them live within a block or two of the boundary line, and it's just more convenient for them to go to their neighborhood schools rather than to go to the Omaha Public School, which is perhaps a mile or more away. Others of the families have decided that District 66 offers them educational opportunities that are not available, or that they do not...their perception is that the educational opportunities are better in District 66 for that particular student. One of the families, I understand, has a handicapped child and they want to access the special education opportunities in District 66. All of these students and all of their families were interviewed by District 66 and were believed to be, and certified to be not leaving the district to avoid desegregation. None of the students were accepted during the year in which they would have been bussed, so they were not leaving the district to