

support for the bill, I'd like to explain to you what the Education Committee amendments do. The bill itself is a parental choice bill, it allows parents to choose the school district to which they send their students. The Education Committee considered a number of amendments and have adopted some of those that we're recommending to you. There will be other amendments that come along, Senator Baack has some additional ones, I know some other members do. Basically the committee amendments do the following--first of all, point number one, students that opt to attend another district will be ineligible for athletic competition for 90 days after their attendance, this is a recommendation that was given to us to forestall athletic type of recruiting. The purpose of the bill is not to allow athletic types of recruitment, this committee amendment hopefully forestalls that. An Option Support Fund is established. This is a fairly important provision within the committee amendments. Frankly, it's one that I think needs additional work and needs additional discussion and I'd be delighted to hear additional comments on how this should work. In Minnesota, where this provision has been in place for a couple of years, very simply what they do is they allow the state aid to follow the student from one district to another. In Minnesota 70 percent of the cost of supporting education comes from the state level. In Nebraska 26 percent of the cost of supporting students comes from the state level. Therefore merely letting the state aid follow the students is not a viable option. The Option Support Fund would operate as follows, simply when a student goes from...see Senator Hartnett there peering over the proposal and I'm sure a lot of them will want to do this, goes from Bellevue into Papillion, what will happen is the Bellevue school district will send its per pupil expenditures to the state fund. The state fund will then send Papillion's per pupil expenditure to the Papillion school district, and that's how the proposal will be funded. At the end of the year, if there are increased greater expenditures required from the fund than are...than are in the fund, that will be a deficit appropriation. And it's conceivable there will be additional dollars in that fund. They will stay in that fund to fund the program in future years. The way...We sat and talked about this and we feel very...quite strongly, well you can't predict exactly what students will take advantage of this, that it will be close to a break even point for the state fund. Number three, the payments by the resident district are to be made twice a year, the 15th and May...December 15th and May 15th. I think the bill originally said they'd be once a