

concerned about this being perhaps an anti-mainlining or mainstreaming issue. I do not consider it that. The options are there if they want to stay home and be a resident in their own school but it also offers them the option to go to one of these resident schools and particularly in the case of Nebraska City which they're more familiar with, they attend classes in the Nebraska City school system, partially or several or a few. They are in and out of the town. They are out and about. They gain confidence. They gain self-esteem. They gain the ability to handle themselves in situations that they might not otherwise learn. And I think that's a very valuable option that should be offered to students and I am sure the same option exists and should be there for those that go to the School for the Deaf. Another thing that has happened, many want to take advantage of this across the state and are not able to send their child to...are not able to send their child to Nebraska City, in this case. They have moved to Nebraska City in order to have their child go to the visually handicapped school and, as a result, it has been quite a large burden on the Nebraska City school district because, according to our present law, they must pay the tuition then and this has become an inordinate burden. And as what I was going...as I was going back to say what I said in my original statement, this I think should be...more fairly would be spread across the state as a state issue, as a state funding issue. And so, from that, I would urge adoption of this bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Baack, followed by Senator Hall.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, after adopting my amendment, it kind of feels kind of bad but I have to rise in opposition to the bill now, even with that amendment it doesn't make it a good bill, it makes it a better bill but it doesn't make it a good bill. I think that the only things that I want to bring out are some of the things, some of the precedents that we're setting here by doing this. We are setting a precedent here. We are saying that certain handicaps are going to be treated differently than others in the state. We're doing that because we're going to say that those two schools are going to be totally state funded. Right now, we fund other handicapping conditions at 90 percent of allowable excess cost. That does not mean that we fund them at the 90 percent level. That's a key factor and that is 90 percent of allowable excess cost. Right now we fund special education at a rate of about 60 to