

65 percent, is what we fund. We do not fund them at a 90 percent level. So we're going to boost these handicapping conditions from a 60 to 65 percent level to a 100 percent level. We are going to do that when we do this bill. I think you are going to find that many schools are going to tend to be less innovative in trying to come up with programs to deal with these kinds of children in their district, because what we're doing here is we're saying to a school board, if you want to send them to the residential type system, they can go there for free. If you want to keep them in your own school district, we are going to fund them at a 65 percent level. So there is not much incentive there anymore for school boards to come up with the kinds of programs that may actually provide a more appropriate education for the child. It's going to stop there. I'm not saying that these schools don't provide appropriate education because they do, they serve a very, very useful function. But what I'm saying is we don't want to necessarily encourage school boards to put their children into this setting because of cost reasons and I think we're...and we're starting to do that with this bill. I think I mentioned before that we're starting...we're starting into a system where we're going to treat different students...different kind of handicaps differently and we're going to do that with this. I can imagine coming down the road we're going to have other handicapping conditions that are going to say, well, why don't we start up a residential kind of facility for us because then we can get 100 percent state funding rather than at the 60 to 65 percent level that you might have on the local level. That is a possibility coming down the road. So I think we should think very, very seriously about this bill as to whether or not we ought to do this. I know that most other states fund that but a lot of...most other states have different mechanisms and different ways of funding special education than Nebraska. Nebraska's is totally unique. I don't know if we should break that unique system by picking out a couple of handicapping conditions and saying, these are special, we're going to treat these in a very special way by funding them 100 percent. I think it also conflicts with many of the things that we talk about in here when we deal with family issues and trying to keep the children as close to the family as possible. If we don't have the local school districts coming up with the innovative kind of programs to try and keep those children close to the family setting rather than shipping them off to a residential facility because of the economic reasons. I hope that doesn't happen and I think in most cases it will not happen. But there