

that is traditionally used in the Appropriations Committee, and that is Senator Withem was concerned about the possible creation of a new program which, in fact, would require statutory authority and sometimes when you get to talking appropriations jargon it doesn't come across perhaps as clearly as it should. All that's being done in the section that Senator Withem is concerned about is it uses program as an accounting convention and it gives us maximum flexibility in this state then to make whatever choice, whatever policy choice you as individual senators would choose to make either on LB 468 or LB 651. So...in fact, the actual effect of striking this language would mean that then we would need to go in and recalculate that maintenance of effort figure and would raise that maintenance of effort level. Now that may not seem all that serious until you realize the implications of this which Senator Hannibal has started to discuss, and the implications of that are that we're going to effect then a major shift of our state's resources to public institutions. Now I'm perfectly willing to support a program that gives some help to students at...I'm sorry, that will make a major shift to private institutions and I'm perfectly willing to comply with federal law and to support at some level students going to private institutions, but my philosophy is our first obligation is to the poorest students in this state. And I want to maintain maximum flexibility as an individual senator then to allocate whatever money we decide to put out there as a body towards scholarship funds. I want to make sure that I am indeed helping the poorest students in the state and I don't want my hands tied by federal maintenance of effort language. Maintenance of effort language is a custom that has come down from us with the blessings of Washington and a lot of areas and it really limits the kinds of flexibility that we have in this state and that's always a consideration. It doesn't matter what area it is. If you have a maintenance of effort level to take care of, you've always got to continue that level. That is what maintenance of effort means. That ties your hands in terms of making the kinds of shifts in these, whatever additional funds we might want to eventually allocate for purposes of scholarships, depending on the choice you make on this particular bill here. And let me just throw out a couple of figures here that I think illustrates the real problem here and why we have to be so sensitive about this. Right now, total public sector of SSIG awards of income levels, in '86-87 in public institutions 76 percent of those students who got assistance came from a family with income under 20,000. Only 6 percent had an income over 30,000, contrasted with private