

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. The amendment deals with the issue of the funding with regard to the extension for purposes of hold harmless. They are going to be held harmless from this point forward, but under this amendment not at 100 percent but at 80 percent. There has been no movement in terms of the cost or the reimbursement for purposes of the hold harmless provision that we speak of in the Lamb amendment and that we want to increase by 66 percent. Senator Moore speaks to the issue of the fact that there has been problems with some of these school districts and that they need, although he rises reluctantly to support it, they need additional time to work those things out. If we continue to give them the funding under the provision for purposes of hold harmless, without making any adjustment in terms of the amount or level, rather, of reimbursement that we will cover, the protection, if you will, the guarantee of revenues to those districts, there will be no change. There will be no movement toward change. The only change, the only movement that will be made is toward the statutes, and the wiping out altogether of the sunset, if you will, that currently exists in 1059, as it sits in statute. What this amendment does is reduce for years '92-93, '93-94, '94-95, the state aid that for purposes of reimbursement pursuant to the School Foundation and Equalization Act, 1989, and what that means is that we will reduce it from 100 percent to 80, that if we don't build into the system an incentive, if we're going to make this change in terms of extending the number of years that we're going to allow for the state to pick up some of this cost over and above what the school districts do, guarantee, if you will, their budget, then it's important that, as a part of that extension, that we send a message that this is not going to be a practice, that this is not going to become the rule, that this is not something that we are going to do in the 1994 legislative session, extend it a couple more years beyond that. And that's what this amendment does, it addresses the percentage of the amount of aid that they will receive. My amendment, as is before you, is at an 80 percent, so we would, for the next school year, the '92-93 school year, allow for those districts to be guaranteed to receive at least 80 percent. And that clearly sends the message in addition to the two years that Senator Lamb allows for in his amendment that the Legislature is not going to continue to foot the bill, that there has to be a change and the change will come. The change will not come, there will be no effort or no movement to make those changes unless we reduce the funding, unless we address the issue of the 80 percent and say that it