

established, whenever it was, there was, in essence, no state aid to education program. What happens now under the Moore-Ashford amendment will...what happens now today is the kid goes into the school system, the school system bills the State Department of Social Services for the educational cost, only the educational cost, of the youngster. That comes back. The school district, in essence, subtracts that amount out of the state aid that they would otherwise have received. So they don't get the state aid for that particular student. What will happen under this system now is there will be no receipt coming in so there will be no subtraction from state aid, so, in essence, the state aid to education program will pick up the cost and, no, it won't be the average state aid for education. It will be, in most cases, right around \$4,000. So it's not as if that local school district is going to be suffering as a result of this. The other thing, from the comments made by Senator Byars and Senator Schmit that the impression, if you were half listening to what they had to say, might be that we're cutting off funding for kids that are going into foster care. That's not the case. If, under the current system, if a foster child is placed in my home, good share of the cost of that child, their court cost, their medical cost, money to clothe them and feed them and keep them in a home, is, in fact, paid, and, in addition to that, additional dollars to pay for their educational expenses are paid out. If this amendment is adopted and this bill passes, the only thing that will change will be the dollars that go to support education. It will not be the entire...the rest of the money supporting foster care is there. Now, again, to indicate, I understand better today than I did earlier in the week, I think, about all of the problems associated with foster placements and how we can make a state policy at the state level that looks very sound and flows very clearly, but then, once it gets implemented, finding a bed for these kids to sleep at night sometimes is a problem. So I don't want to demean the problems that foster children and those that provide foster homes may, in fact, have. But what this bill deals with is not that myriad of other problems, it deals with their educational expenses and that is all that it deals with. So, no, this is not putting undue burden back on the property taxpayers because of the way in which this flows through the LB 1059 formula, number one; and, number two, the Moore-Ashford amendment does not say the state is not going to pay all of the cost of wards of the court. It says we're not going to fund them through the...we're not going to fund their educational expenses through DSS, instead it's going to flow through the