

don't know if I'm in favor of this specific language or not, but I think it is important maybe to identify what we mean by low income. And I don't know if we need to do that here, or if we need to do that after the task force and the housing commission has had the opportunity to meet. I'm willing to look at it and think about it, and maybe...maybe we need a definition that does...that indicates how much of an income a person has to spend on rent. You know, low-income people spend, certainly, a greater percent of their income on housing, and some of them spend over 30, 40 percent of their income on housing, and this will vary from community to community by income. A low-income person at 150 percent of poverty in one community may be able to get housing perfectly adequately, whereas somebody in another community might not. I am just thinking out loud here, I guess. I don't know where my thoughts are leading me exactly, but I think Senator Beutler perhaps has...has an idea here that we should work with a little bit this morning, and, Senator Wesely, do you have anything that you would like to say at this point, because I think I'm going to quit. Would you like to use the rest of my time, Senator Wesely?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wesely, there's two and a half minutes, and your light is next.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. I rise and acknowledge Senator Beutler's concerns are legitimate. We share a desire to try and help those that are truly needy and we need to do that. The difficulty with housing is the great expense involved in trying to truly get at those that are at the very low end of the economic scale is sometimes made difficult because of the cost involved with housing. So the idea is to try and balance that out and bring in a low income and very low income as a designation, and if you look in the bill, we talk in terms of the focus of the trust fund on page 4, lines 9 through 13, we talk about assisting low income and very low income. And so what Senator Beutler has identified would be described typically in other programs as very low income, those that are 50 percent above the poverty level are considered in terms of housing very low income and so that would be an appropriate designation for that priority. However, if you...if you want to truly blend in with other housing programs that are already at the federal level and established around the country, you need to establish at the low income level the 80 percent of the median family