

income. That's what is typically considered to be low income. So that would be 20 percent below the average income in the state. There is also a provision about how much of their income is dedicated to housing. And so what I'm going to be offering, whenever it arrives here, an amendment to this amendment that would establish Senator Beutler's figures as 150 percent as being the very low income, and then...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...an additional category of low income being at 80 percent. We did not...let me take just a minute, the last minute to talk a bit about...a bit about why we didn't have the targeting in the bill. We do talk about low income and very low income. We do it in a general way. We did not put a definition in there because, again, we felt that the establishment of the fund and the committee that would be involved would establish the details of exactly how we would target this. The whole idea is to not to be so inflexible we can't respond to individual community needs out there, and it may be that there is a very high priority need in some communities that have a slightly higher income but still a very needy situation in terms of housing in that community we need to respond to. If we make it too restrictive, we would be left in a situation where the state could not respond and work with that community. And so the idea that we had was to provide a little more flexibility in this statute.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Thank you, Senator Wesely. Your light is next.

SENATOR WESELY: And so the idea was that we would provide a little more flexibility in the administration of this program, so that we did not get in a situation where we could not respond to individual community needs. I did pass out for you a handout about housing availability, a big worry for many small communities. In it it talks about housing policies that overlook vastly different community resources and needs put small towns at a disadvantage in competing for housing assistance, and that's one of those things we wanted to recognize in the development of this is that we can't put the small towns at a disadvantage, that we have to provide some flexibility so that we can particularly help those small towns. And so we didn't get into the definition of income and we didn't