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specifically as it relates to PEAP, I don't believe that's an accurate statement. And I know that Senator Chambers gets confused sometimes and I'm just looking for some clarification specifically as your bill relates to PEAP.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. I think there are two points to be made in that regard, Senator. One is that the new single-pot program would begin with the school year in the fall of 2004, so 2004-2005, so the existing structure, the three-program structure, would be in place for the upcoming school year, the 2003-2004 school year. In addition to that, that's one point. The other point is that we incorporated, as you will remember in the Education Committee, a transition program so that students who entered the need-based aid program or received an award, if you will, would be held harmless, so to speak, on that award until they graduated. But that does not mean necessarily, or at least in my understanding of it, that there's any particular pot of money, if you will, that's being allocated to any particular institution. It is, rather, directed toward the students and that would be until they graduate. So if there are some students who next year would be beginning their sophomore year, then their award would be held harmless for that year plus two additional ones.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay, so if I could boil this down and perhaps make more concise your comments, PEAP, in your bill, will be gone next year, but then on the whole there's a phase-out period so that those students who are currently receiving these scholarship funds will be basically held harmless; that we're going to give them time to get through their education before the money is taken away. Is that accurate?

SENATOR RAIKES: That's correct, yes.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. So, in your opinion, say if we got rid of this now under Senator Chambers' amendment, would that be kind of the equivalent of a nuclear bomb being dropped on that program? I mean, it's seems to just decimate it and make it go away.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.