

way for you to think about them might be that Level 1 equates to the mildly handicapping conditions, Level 2 the more moderate handicapping conditions, and Level 3 the more severe handicapping conditions. The committee amendments attempt to draw a definitional statutory line between Level 1 and Level 2, or between mildly handicapping conditions and the moderate handicapping conditions, recognizing our responsibility to those young citizens that have the moderate and the severe handicaps, be they physical, mental, or emotional, recognizing our responsibility and still providing that 90 percent funding. So those two handicapping conditions will not be changed in terms of the 90 percent reimbursable funding that we've had in the past. The committee amendment draws that line at six hours or less of time spent in a special education classroom. Now, the idea is that if this young student is spending the vast majority of their time in the regular classroom, then, obviously, they must not be a very severely or moderately handicapped individual, it is more the mild area where there is some discretion already to the school districts in attempting to move these young people in. Now, I should also tell you that we passed a bill last year that is going to help the school districts define those people who can get in 942 that has not taken full effect yet. So, with the combination of those two things, the school district will have some abilities to use some discretion. There is one other definition that the committee put in, and that is that we define, in that same mild group, two other categories, the speech impaired, and the learning disabled. The reason we did that is because the vast majority of students that have either one or the other of those two categories, or fit in those two categories, are, in fact, mildly handicapped and are treated, many times, by just a few hours in the classroom during the week, the idea being that if they have a severe speech impairment then that will qualify them under some of the other definitions for more moderate or severe handicaps, and will, therefore, fall in Level 2 or 3 anyway. I hope you were able to read through the handout that you have on your desk to try to understand some of these as we go through them. The other thing that the committee attempted to do was to change to more specific language from the federal statutes for some of the definitional language. The language, as I already mentioned about speech impaired, under the current Nebraska law there was no definition of that category, there instead was a term defective in speech that was listed in a group of physical handicaps and we are attempting to more clearly define that particular handicap so that we'll give the school districts a little bit more of an ability to make sure that those people