

SENATOR VICKERS: Senator Haberman, there would...well, I suspect there will be an attempt to have a fiscal note. I think there has to be a fiscal note. All I can tell you is that there will not be...it would be very difficult to tell you, in terms of exact dollars, what the savings might be, because what we are really doing is setting up a mechanism whereby there will not be any automatic increases from now on.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Thank you, Senator Vickers.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator Lamb, please.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to support the amendment, the committee amendment which has been explained by Senator Vickers. Senator Vickers has done much work on this amendment and he is to be commended for that. I, personally, think that this is a good amendment which will further define what we are providing for these people, without restricting what needs to be provided to any great degree. We should emphasize that this has no connection, really, with the current budget problems, that there is no reduction, current reductions, in this proposal, but it is merely to adopt primarily the federal guidelines and the federal definitions so that we know where we are going in the future and any possible savings, rather than being current, will be down the road. But I think that these are some changes that need to be made, have probably been needed to be made for some time, and will result in a better program. If I have any time left, Mr. Chairman, I would allot that to Senator Vickers to further explain the amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Vickers, you have about two and a half minutes left, if you would like to use it for that.

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Lamb. The cap, I need to explain a little bit more how the cap is designed to work. The Level 1 programs, right now, are defined as three hours or less. The line the committee amendments draw is less than six hours. So, it will be a bigger amount of dollars in the Level 1 programs, once the line is redrawn, than we have right now data for. As it is designed to work...remember the schools have the programs in place today that we are going to be reimbursing them for our next fiscal year. We are going to draw the line during this school year, during the programs that are out there now and the reason for