

into the existing language of the state statute?

SENATOR VICKERS: It's been incorporated into, as I understand it, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So, would the existing language in the statute modify the federal definition to such an extent that this definition is not really the same as the federal definition?

SENATOR VICKERS: No, this definition is drafted to be basically identical to the federal definition, to be as close as possible to it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So, does the federal definition...but here is what I'm asking, does the federal definition include this discussion of these various traits, for example, inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships, and right on through C, D, and E?

SENATOR VICKERS: Yes, it does, yes it does.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Had there been a federal definition at the time of the adoption of the state language when part of it was not accepted? Because I'm wondering about how it works out that the state already has a part of that federal definition, but not all of it.

SENATOR VICKERS: I think, Senator Chambers, that the State of Nebraska had their definition before the federal government had theirs. You've got to understand that the backward State of Nebraska is not a backward state at all when it comes to special education. We were leading the nation, and we had the guidelines established first. We had the language established first. So, I guess what we should have done was went to...and I did make a trip to Washington, you may recall, last year trying to tell them to follow our language, but they didn't quite do it just right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Since you took a plug for yourself, the backward State of Nebraska led the nation on the issue of South Africa divestment and paying football players, too, which, by the way, everybody is now advocating. But I just wanted to be sure that when it said, in your note, that the federal definition is adopted, that it was. Now, I'm having a difficult, on page 2 of the committee amendment, where we get,