

amendment. But it goes to that obnoxious section that we dealt with this morning and on another occasion that some people call "learnfare" and I call it the rack. But, at any rate, having lost that battle, here is what I would ask. On page 18, in line 8, after "school," would be these words, "No reduction of assistance shall be such as may result in extreme hardship." Here is what I know I couldn't get done and that's to write standards into the statute as to what type of reduction would not be allowed. So what this amendment does is to provide a floor. It does not define extreme hardship. There is a part of this amendment which, if I read it correctly, leaves that up to the department. But before that can become the standard, let me ask Senator Rasmussen a question. Senator Rasmussen, is it being left to the department to define extreme hardship?

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: That is one of the things that they must come up with a definition and then provide us with that information before we move forward next year, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So before this provision about what they call "learnfare" could take effect, all of these other preliminary approvals will have to be obtained from the Legislature?

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes, that is correct..

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So it wouldn't be necessary for me to try to define extreme hardship in this amendment, just state it like it is, then we look at whatever the department brings us back as a definition to see if we like it or don't, and then whatever definition we approve of at that time would be our definition in this amendment I'm offering as to what constitutes extreme hardship.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes, that's my understanding of how the process would work.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, with that discussion having taken place, I would not make an attempt to define extreme hardship, but it provides a floor. Whatever we decide is the definition of extreme hardship, we're saying below that level we don't want any of these unfortunate families to fall. To get away from some of the inclination a caseworker may have to try to wield a heavier hammer than the Legislature even intends in trying to intrude into families' activities, this amendment would simply say there could be no reduction by