

Military Affairs Committee and as I am sure he indicated perhaps have spent a lot of time working out the provisions, reasonable provisions, I suspect there is a certain amount of misunderstanding assuming because there was suggestions a couple years ago to abolish the program entirely and the mere fact that that discussion occurred a couple of years ago, I suspect there are those who assume that the subject being brought up again had a similar purpose and it is not the same. The restrictions are reasonable and I would hope you advance the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Haberman, please, and then Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, for those of you that are listening, I am going to read a couple of letters of a dozen I received. "Dear Sir: I don't mean to sound disrespectful but I think it is a crying shame that the National Guard is doing away with the 75 percent tuition benefit program. Just when I think I can actually be all I can be, when the time of my life is right for schooling, they take the rug out from under me again. Without the program, I can't afford the schooling for I have two kids and a wife that I can hardly help feed and keep in clothes." That is one instance. Another one about a grandson enlisted at 17. He is conscientious. He wants to go to college and is college material. He has four younger brothers and sisters and his parents are not able to help him financially. He could go to college. Here is another letter that says the same thing. And it is letter after letter. "I am writing in regard to the tuition program. I wish to go to school in September for a teacher's degree. My father is a teacher now and couldn't possibly afford to send me to college." Now the reason they have higher enrollment, it is obvious because of this program. You cut the program out or cut it down or restrict it and your enrollment is going to go down. Then you are going to be coming back, I hope if this advances, putting it back into position. Now, maybe some of you don't understand that if this country has a problem or if we have a war, they go first, the National Guard does. They go first. Now, some of you don't understand, I don't think you understand what it means to be free as we are in this country because you have never had your freedom taken away from you. I have. Johnny DeCamp has. We have had our freedom taken away from us. Chronister has. When you are in the service you have your freedom taken away from you. Then when you get out you appreciate. And those of you who have never lost your freedom don't understand what it is. So your National Guard is right