

that is the purpose, you are not going to prevent them from being first in line. You are not going to be able to say that only those people who are going to take the legitimate credits can be first in line. It is not the way to prevent that sort of thing from happening. Secondly, Senator Warner says that because of the fact that it is an entitlement program and admittedly it is a mechanism to encourage people to be in and we have got to be concerned about costs, I understand that. If we are going to be concerned about costs, then we had ought to prohibit, which I think the committee amendment does, the rest of the committee amendment begins to tighten the procedures down, maybe we had ought to start looking at the percentages. Maybe we had ought to play around with the percentage instead of putting a limitation on numbers. I would feel much more comfortable if we are concerned about the total cost of the program and we say, you know, there are too many people taking it, there are so many people taking it that we cannot afford 75 percent, then let's start looking at 60 percent or something of that nature rather than simply saying, we are going to still pay 75 percent but we are only going to pay it to those people who are quick enough to get in there and get their dipper in the bucket. You know, if there is only so much water in the bucket, you had ought to make the dipper smaller. You had ought not to leave the dipper the same size and just let the first people who get their dipper in the bucket get it all out. And that is what we are doing with this particular provision. I would argue that we are not changing...by taking the 1200 number out, we are not making very much of a difference in terms of budgetary concerns this year because I don't think that the numbers are much greater than that right now. But in simple terms of philosophy, I would ask you, why should we set up a mechanism to limit it based only on who can get in line first, who can get their dipper in the bucket first? If you want to put in a provision to help hold down the costs, then I would begin to look at the percentages with you to help hold down those costs. I would tighten up the other provisions more and I think that the provisions that they have in the rest of the bill does tighten it down considerably. As Senator Landis pointed out, the ten-year provision, the fact that commissioned warrant officers have to have baccalaureate degrees, or that have a baccalaureate degree are not going to be eligible, that is going to tighten it down considerably. But I really strongly ask you to examine the philosophy of a numbers game in an entitlement program. And I don't disagree that it is an entitlement program. We don't say, we don't say on other entitlement programs at the federal level that we are going to limit, for example, those people who are