

suggested the cost of that was quite high, although we weren't sure because we haven't done any fiscal impact. But now it's a little lower at 133 percent. I understand what she's saying and it's not a small concern, it's a legitimate concern. But another concern is again if you raise the level up to 133 percent, there are folks out there, you know, that qualify on ADC, income has to be I think a third below poverty. So it's again almost an attraction to get in on the system and get income out of it, and get the benefits as a result of that. And we want to be there for people that need it, but I'm not so sure this helps that in fact. What we've tried to do is we've suggested that the cash assistance be at...well, the job, the money from the job and the other nontaxable support would be at least as much as the ADC payments. So they're not going to lose ground under the language we now have in the bill. They'll be at least as well off with the work they would take after the time period runs out. So they're not going to lose ground, that's at least now in the bill. Senator Crosby would like to make it much better than that, and that's not an unreasonable request. But, again, the comparison is those in the private sector, you know, they're out there working, they don't get the health care benefits, they don't maybe get the child care benefits, they don't get some of the wages. And there are some equity issues that get raised, we hear them from time to time, people complaining about the welfare system. I think this provision would add to that, add to the complaints we receive from people out there working, saying, look, I got to get by with less and this other guy is working the same job, but they get all this additional assistance. So I don't know, it's not a simple issue. But I think probably at this point again I'd ask opposition to the amendment and let us go forth with the language we now have in the bill and look at concepts like this to see how they might be integrated in the future. Now, for your information, Senator Crosby keeps talking about ADC at 36 percent or so of poverty. She is right, it's very low, that's one of the reasons the committee didn't support reducing it even further. We want to keep it at least at that level, it should be higher, but it's not. But anyway, the ADC level is quite low, but then you do have the other provisions originally were going to do away with food stamps and energy, and those are not gone, those stay in the bill. So when you add up the ADC, the food stamps, the energy, and then the child care, and the health care, you are right around 100 percent of the poverty level, you add all of that up. So Senator Crosby would take us then up to 133 percent as you move off of the system. I