

this through and come back with something better than what you've got here isn't going to get the job done. That is essentially where we are, where we started with this back in June, or whenever it was, of last year as the task force was formed and we went to work on this. We have studied. We have looked at this. We have refined and focused some ideas here. Furthermore, the committee process and the floor amendments that we have adopted on General and Select File have enhanced the legislation, added to the positive aspects of the bill, focused in on the greatest concerns that the body has on this legislation, and I feel we are ready to move on the bill. Now understand a lot more work has to be done, the bill has to come back after studies and other work is done, so we will have another chance to look at this. But if you don't have the detail and the focus and the thrust of what we have developed here with this legislation, you will meander all over again with another study in my view, although I appreciate the need for more information. Keep in mind the elements of the bill that are going to be eliminated by this, are not only the punitive side, but the positive side of the legislation. One of the things I would like to emphasize is that although I'd love to do the positive things that Senator Crosby has talked about, and others have talked about, the idea of the 133 percent, 185 percent, assuring that, I'd love to assure that for everybody in our society, not just welfare recipients, but everybody. It would be great to be able to say, look, magic wand, everybody out there will be able to get child care, will be able to get health care, will be able to have a job and an income that will be at least 185 percent of poverty. It is like no child being below average in school. We will all be above average, and just like this, we will never have anybody below poverty. We will always be above poverty and, obviously, that would be a wonderful thing; but the cost involved is obviously astronomical, and we have to think about that. So being realistic, we are trying to blend in how far we can go in terms of enhanced assistance, money, programs that we are calling for in this bill, with the trade-off, with the trade-off that we think we have to make to get those good things that are in the bill of the two-year limit, of the family cap, of the "learnfare" and some of the other things we have in the bill. I know people don't like it. I wish we didn't have to have it, but if we are going to get all of those positive things, the taxpayer and the public has to know that there is a trade-off that is involved, that they get something too, because they've been concerned about the welfare system. They've been involved