

## COMMENTS ON ARMSTRONG AMENDMENT

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I am very sympathetic to the remarks made by my colleague from Colorado. I am sure that none of the members of the Senate fails to recognize the fact that resources for the Section 8 program are too limited to meet the needs of all low income people. I am certain that we would all like to find a way to serve the needs of the very low income people.

However, I am not sure that the issue is really one that can be addressed by an arbitrary reduction in eligibility.

Right now the law provides section 8 eligibility to people at or below 80% of the median. Yet the administration tells us that 93% of all people served under this program are at or below 50% of the median. In fact they tell us that the average income of clients in this program is 28% of the median.

The Committee bill has called for a reduction to 70% of the median. We have no assessment of the impact of this change. Now we are being asked to take 50% of the median, again with no assessment of the impact of this change.

I would suggest that before we set an arbitrary reduction figure, we need to carefully analyze the issue with greater care.

My point is, that the present eligibility level does not relate to the reality of the clients HUD is serving. Maybe this is not the way to get at the issue. Maybe it is. But I would urge the Senate to withhold any changes in this limit until we can receive a better clarification of the problem.