

this is a very, very important issue. We cheerlead here and carry the spear for business on a weekly basis on issues that are important to this state. This is one issue that is extremely important to labor and that we need to pass this year. We need to send the message that we support both sides of that equation with regard to who makes this state run, because you talk to anyone and it's the small business individuals, and that's who many of the organizations that provided this amendment support and represent. It's the small business individual who understands that these increases are important, they don't like to see them too large because it does affect their bottom line, their business. But they do want to see a fair playing ground for the employees that they hire. With that, I would again urge the suspension of the rules so that we can move to adoption of this amendment to LB 414. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Morrissey, please, followed by Senator Dierks.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Mr. Speaker and members, thank you. I would support Senator Hall's motion to suspend the rules because I really feel this is something that is needed and it's needed, not next year with no guarantee, just a little discussion next year, it's needed this year. I would ask the members, when was the last time that you drew unemployment? When was the last time that you had to live on \$150 a week? We're not talking about people going out and buying new cars, new clothes, new TV sets, we're talking about families that are struggling to get by with the bare necessities. This money that they do collect, they don't drive from our communities to Lincoln and Omaha to spend it, because they can't afford it. It's spent in your communities, it's spent in your district. When you can just barely get by on what you've got you don't drive out of town to do your shopping, you shop at home, because that is your only choice. I have many people on railroad unemployment, which is better by the way than state unemployment, that are driving right now to Oklahoma and Texas to continue work. So any argument you might hear that this is putting the unemployment too high and doesn't encourage people to seek job opportunities and seek employment are real weak. These are family men, family people that are driving hundreds of miles, staying away from their families for weeks and months at a time simply so they can get just a little bit more money, a few more dollars a week. So I think this is very important. I encourage you to suspend the