

Senator Hall, and Senator Chizek.

SENATOR McFARLAND: Mr. President, I would like to yield my time to Senator Chizek, please.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chizek.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Mr. President, and colleagues, I rise to support Senator McFarland's amendment to the committee amendments. We are looking at a two-year period since we have had an increase. Senator Hefner talked about the cost to the business community. We are talking about a minimal, a minimal cost. I happened to be one of the sponsors a few years ago of LB 270. This body passed and enacted legislation providing tax incentives from one end of this state to the other for certain categories of business. All we are asking is some equity, some equity for those men and women that provide the work corps, the work force in this state. All we are asking for is that piece of equity. You try, colleagues, sometimes some of us, maybe our age makes us forget, maybe our age makes us forget what it is like to be a young married person in this state with a couple of children and trying to live, trying to live, if you are at the maximum, on \$245 a week. Senator Hefner, I wonder how many law enforcement officers in this state that \$245 a week fits in line with. I can think of one a few years ago, a law enforcement officer that was arresting a drunk, had an altercation and rolled down a flight of stairs and injured his back and his leg, a young man with a family, and it was difficult to live with the amount that was paid. And I know, Senator, it was my son. I have another son who crushed a knee between a trailer and a dump truck. He is fortunate. He is at home. It is not quite as bad for him, Senator Hefner, but I want those of us who are older to remember what it is like to try and live from payday to payday. There were times, colleagues, when I didn't have a dollar in my pocket and I was drawing a full salary. What we are talking about is fairness and equity in a system. Two years, two years, and we want to provide the working men and women of this state \$10. That is an insult. It is an insult to the working men and women in this state. I urge you let your conscience dictate what is right here. Be fair, be equitable. If we are so concerned about inducing people into this state, various kinds of businesses, shouldn't we be concerned about having working conditions for the men and women in this state that are fair and equitable. I think we should. I urge your support of Senator McFarland's amendment.