

has been announced by the federal government and that will take effect July 1st of this year. As she mentioned, there will be no new programs. This new minimum wage will have an estimated impact of \$255,000 added to the personnel costs for programs. About 90 days ago, ENOA, that the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging, placed the homemaker program on a hold status. To date, there are 175 clients waiting for services. In addition, all current clients have received a cutback in hours of service. These are very frail clients who could use additional hours in order for the agency to maintain them at a safer and more comfortable level. In regard to the home delivered meal programs, I cannot tell you how important that has been to many, many elderly people in my district and throughout the City of Omaha and in the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging Program. A hold was placed on new referrals by the Department of Social Services who, by the way, are the ones that the ENOA contracts with the Department of Social Services for the home delivered meals and a hold was placed on new referrals by DSS on October 1st, 1990. The Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging receives at least five to 10 requests daily for home delivered meals and right now, as I said, they have about 50 clients on a waiting list and this number, and those are the high risk clients. This number will grow rapidly, given the number of the daily referrals. I believe that this amendment, as Senator Smith mentioned, is probably one of the most important amendments that will be added to LB 1031. We're talking about low income, elderly people that not only need the home...the meals on wheels, but if they had to close at least one of the senior citizen centers in Omaha, which they would have to do, maybe one or two, it would affect many, many people that gives them enjoyment, meals on wheels, and something to do all day long. So, as a senior citizen myself and speaking to them almost on a daily basis, listening to their problems, this is one amendment that I think is vitally essential to LB 1031.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR LABEDZ: As Senator Smith said, it's not a new program, it's because of the increase on minimum wage that this \$250,000 is sorely needed. I urge the adoption of the amendment to LB 1031.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, followed by Senator Rod Johnson.