

themselves of the option for up to 25 percent of their employees a training wage of \$3.61 an hour. And if you're interested in how the mechanics of the training wage works, that is in 297. So what I proposed is to half the increase on July 1, 1991, and the other half of the increase on April 1, 1993, which is when the training wage is going to be phased out under 297. So we would try to maintain, under this amendment, a degree of competitiveness among those employers who are small businesses in Nebraska. We can't do anything about the federal notch but we'll try, by this amendment, to phase in, perhaps retain some jobs and then move into the 4.25 per hour at the expiration of the training wage so we will have at least one of the competitive problems out. So, with that, I would move for the adoption of this amendment. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. I will now recognize senators in the following order: Senator Crosby, Refner, Hall, and Schmit. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President, and members, I probably will thank you, Senator Coordsen, for bringing the amendment. I'm really concerned about the small business people that are going to get squeezed by this bill, the seasonal people like the Dairy Queens. We have a lot of Dairy Queens in Lincoln, we have a lot of Dairy Queens or comparable businesses all across the state that depend on young people who are trying to make a little money during the summer. Most of them operate maybe from April to October. When October comes and it starts...the days are shorter and so on, then the Dairy Queens and that kind of business doesn't get any business so they close for the winter. These are family businesses, most of them, mom and pops, in the strictest sense of the word. I know, I have friends who work almost 24 hours a day in the season because that's the way they keep their business going. All of them have other jobs during the winter. So I am...I like the concept of this bill but I am concerned that these people are getting squeezed. I would doubt that any of them are making 500,000 a year or 300,000 a year off those businesses. I just can't believe that they are. So I will vote for the amendment and I want to double check with them before it goes to Select or Final as to whether that's going to help them and if they can live with that. So, at the moment, I want to ask you one quick question, Senator Coordsen, if you will yield for one quick