

in our districts that are working on these lower wage scales that will be helped by this legislation. If you look in your bill book, there was no opposition to this bill, no opposition. And, folks, I will guarantee you that the State Chamber of Commerce does their homework in the Business and Labor Committee and when they see a red flag, small one or a big one, they're in there indicating such and they were not in there in opposition to this bill, no opposition. I would urge you to defeat Senator Coordsen's amendment. It's time to do it now, I feel, and it's long past time to do it and I would urge your support of LB 297. And go out and talk to the people, the working people in your district, and if you want to count numbers and who all this affects, I think this will affect a lot more people in your district positively than negatively. I would urge your support. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President, members, again, I rise in opposition to the amendment. The amendment...but I do appreciate...and the tone that I took originally with Senator Coordsen, I guess, was as much out of frustration as anything because this is something that I think the Legislature should endorse. We should have done it last year, in my opinion, but we didn't do it. And the amendment is offered in, I think, good faith on the part of Senator Coordsen. I don't doubt that. I appreciate the time and effort he has spent on it and has given it in committee. But the point is that, ladies and gentlemen, we're talking about \$4.25 an hour. Four dollars and twenty-five cents an hour is the wage that would take effect and, as a matter of fact, this bill puts it off until July 1. The federal increase takes effect April 1 of this year. It is not a lot of money and Senator Robinson talks about the boarded up districts...boarded up businesses in his district. Senator Robinson, I will take you down to South Omaha any day you want and I will show you...they're not boarded up, we just close them out and leave them there and I happen to represent the third poorest district in the state. So...and I guarantee you, the other two that are below me happen to be in the Omaha area in terms of overall income. And the only difference between the South Omaha business district and the North Omaha business district is one is south of Dodge and the other one isn't. Senator Chambers can argue for his own district, as he is very capable of doing, but, you know, don't talk to me about your district and how badly things are there, you know, because when