

how to vote on this bill. And Senator Beutler didn't help me at all with his little survey this morning, because all of his alternatives came out with almost the same number of people being for them. So, thank you.

SENATOR WARNER: Next, Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit. While we're waiting for Senator Schmit, Senator Robinson has guests under the south balcony. Ong Leng Tian, Minister of Education, Singapore, Ryan Nelson and Mike Bird from Blair. If those three individuals would please stand to recognize them. Thank you. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, appreciate what the senators are trying to do with this bill. And I would suggest that I don't know either why the minimum needs to be raised. I think that there is a little bit of a problem, and I'm a little bit like Senator Crosby, more people will pay me money not to speak than to speak. But I think that if we are not careful we might inadvertently get ourselves in a situation where a member might be found in contrast to this bill and might be violating the law, if he's not careful. It's not very often, most the time legislators are used for free entertainment rather than for compensation purposes. But there are some opportunities, and there will be more, as legislators become more and more versed in different areas, perhaps not just within the state, but outside of the state. I think we want to be careful we do not limit that activity so that they cannot be compensated. I want to add one more thing, and that is that most of the time when you go to these meetings and are asked to speak, legislators are usually not paid, while other people command pretty good fees. Once upon a...once in a great while when a legislator is compensated I would hope that it's not made to look as if he or she is being paid off for giving their time and effort on behalf of a certain issue. So I think that I will follow Senator Withem's lead on this, and hope that what he does will accomplish the goal that he has set out to do.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. President, members of the body, I have a couple of questions for Senator Withem.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes.