

school education, a GED, adult basic education, or training in English as a second language, none of those, none of those will get you better than a minimum wage job in my part of the state. They just don't exist. You would need to have computer training. You would need to have specialized skills in a technical area, in personnel relations, in management, in some area other than just the basics in order to get a job that would pay you better than minimum wage. And that continues to be the biggest problem we have for people who want to work and get off the welfare system, and it seems to me that's been the argument in terms of supporting welfare reform all along. It is not people who are not working in my part of the state. It is people who are working and cannot rise above poverty because there are not good jobs or they do not have the training they need to move into better paying jobs. So, again, I think it is absolutely essential that we include postsecondary education to allow people, women in particular, to get advanced training, to get better paying jobs, to get their families off the welfare system, and to make for themselves a better way of life. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam Chairman, members of the body, Senator Wesely is not at his mike right now but I had just talked to him when he was talking to Senator Jensen, and he clarified for me, because there seemed to be some conflict, that we do not now nor will we ever with these programs pay tuition for individuals to go to college, and he said that this would not change that, that we don't pay for tuition now for college with these programs; that we pay for, while they are going to college, we pay for their...they can have food stamps or child care, or any of these other support programs, but we don't pay the actual tuition, and that that won't change if this welfare reform is adopted this year, that we will not be paying for tuition for those individuals. So that's in contrast to other statements that have been made that people can go get a four-year college education now. I guess that means they can get support from welfare for the entire four years they are in school, and if we adopt this welfare change, that now they will only be able to receive those support systems for the two years that they are in college, and will have to do something else for the final two years that they are in college. I guess, you know, Senator McKenzie, when you were talking about what happens in rural areas, and that 4.25 an hour is not enough for a woman and a