

consideration of something that we all very well know, if we're completely honest about it, that we desperately need to do. And I might, you know, I might tell you I think this affects people across all economic lines because I know that I have a son out there on the job market right now and it is tough out there to find a job that you can support a family on or even support yourself on. I think that this will go just a little teeny, tiny bit of the way towards helping those people that we are trying to make self-supportive, but it's going to help other people as well. And we all know the statistics, we've all seen all the figures. We know that the wages have not kept pace, the minimum wage has not kept pace over the years...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ..and it's way past time. We need to do this and we need to do it today. My only regret is that it isn't enough.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. You know, if Senator Brashear had said with the adoption of this amendment he would consider supporting my amendment, it would change the tenor of the debate, but it's obvious all he's trying to do is to divide and to raise a red herring to run through here and have people cause them to have concern about the other amendment. So, because of that, I rise in opposition to the Brashear amendment. Obviously, raising the issue of who's covered by the minimum wage is worthwhile and there are any number of occupations not now covered by it. If there is a sincere interest, and I would have one, for one, to work on trying to examine who should and should not be covered by the minimum wage, that is a worthy effort. This is not, however. Let me reemphasize a few points. The agricultural exemption I think has been longstanding and the one on the state is the one, though, that I think does have some appeal and I think perhaps at a later point, in Select File or something, I would like to look into that further and consider whether or not we could address that because I do believe that the state should not be one of those paying below what would be a reasonable wage. We do have one example of that. Senator Chambers asked me if I knew of any, and the personal care aide would be the one area where I know the state reimbursed at less than minimum wage for