

good benefits. Those are the kind of jobs we want in the state of Nebraska. Our current tax incentive benefit package doesn't really do that. It talks about investment. It gives a credit on that. It talks about jobs created, but the jobs aren't required to have any level of wages or benefits. We've talked about it before. We've talked, I remember Senator Hall had an amendment to try and require health insurance, and we weren't able to get that. I do want to admit and admire Senator Brashear because this bill before us does call for a 20,000 dollar wage in order to qualify for benefits under 1368. I think you've got the right approach, that's the kind of jobs we want to attract, and so I applaud him for that. And I am suggesting that we ought not to stop there with this bill. I think we ought to take the concept, and that is what this amendment proposes, and say that whether you qualify under this bill, whether you qualify under LB 829, whether you qualify under LB 775, when you get that job tax credit, when you get the tax break for the jobs you create, the jobs ought to pay 20,000 a year. Now part of a handout I have shows about the minimum level of income you need to sustain a family. Again, I recall on the welfare debate, we talked about to have an equivalent level of benefit to workers in the state of Nebraska to entice them off of welfare, you needed, basically, \$11 an hour in wages and benefits; 20,000 is not \$11 an hour, but what we also require under this amendment is that health care benefits be provided to the workers as well. So, in a sense, we are attempting to achieve that level, that minimum level of jobs that is adequate for families to sustain themselves, is sufficient to have...attract people off of the welfare system and into the workforce, and try to give us a standard of living that I think we want in this state. It's time we stopped letting our tax break legislation attract in the low-paying jobs, which, in many cases, it has. Now on the average, some of the figures I have seen look pretty good. Some of the wages are pretty good under LB 775. I want to acknowledge that. But we also know there are many of those low-paying jobs out there and that is in many cases the sort of businesses that we've attracted and expansion that we've attracted. So I think that those type of jobs, though they can provide work for some individuals and they are glad for that work, I appreciate that, as a policy, what we need to do is really be working harder to target and prioritize the good-paying jobs and the good benefits. That's why I am suggesting, again, we take in the situation where we have got the tax breaks out there, someone,