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living wage is, or what a fair wage is, or what's happening to salaries as they occur around the country. It's an artificially politically chosen number. It raises irregularly. I believe the last one that I know about was in 1997. It went to \$5.15 as I recall. Maybe there's been a major one since then. Let me guess, under Senator Pederson's idea, we wouldn't have changed the index for the last six years. Is that fair? It's pegged to the wrong index. Secondly, Senator McDonald the other day made I thought a very powerful speech, talking about workers so desirous of jobs that she saw signs that said will work for benefits. You know the power of what that phrase means and I know what the power of that phrase means. It's the importance of healthcare for people on the job. And Senator Pederson says, gosh, you know what, that's just not part of the mix; benefits shouldn't count; it just flummoxes us and we can't think of a way to handle that; we are not going to acknowledge the reality that a job is different if it has health benefits and if it doesn't; essentially, all those jobs are the same if they have a salary and benefits or if they have just salary without health benefits. And that's not reality. You know it and I know it. When Senator McDonald told that story and there was that response that we all had to the person who says will work for benefits, we knew the power of what she was talking about. And that is being ignored in this amendment and that's wrong. If we want to put some minimum floor of quality jobs, it should have an index that's reasonable and that really grows on the base of wages, not political catfights back in Washington, D.C.

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: And it ought to acknowledge the reality that health benefits are a critical part of what constitutes a quality job. And we want to reward employers who've got it, and we want to ask more from employers who don't have it. You can't come up with a quality job standard and not do at least those two things, and on both those counts Senator Pederson's amendment fails.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, we've