

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 15, 2003      LB 435

little. It's going to impact you and me and everyone that buys goods and services, because those costs are merely passed right along to us and, in fact, that is an unfunded mandate. Wages, at least in my district, are quite adequate, and in fact that's even the wrong thing to say. Wages in my district are among the highest in the state, and it's not because we have minimum wage standards. It's because the market drives the price of wages. We have telemarketer. If you can fog a mirror you can work at telemarketing, and I don't mean to demean telemarketing at all, but they're so anxious to get workers and start them at \$8 an hour and work them up to far beyond that, minimum wage doesn't come into play. The fast-food restaurants in particular, you know, kids are starting at \$7 and \$8 an hour, kids. Senator Beutler had information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and I...the only homework I did was I consulted with the national chamber. I got on their web site and found that their statistics are different. And you can use statistics however you'd like them. Their statistics show that 85 percent of minimum wage employees are second wage earners, teens living at home, and singles without children. I submit that minimum wage in the real world does nothing but drive everybody's wage up. I submit that those that we feel good about helping, if we have dual income families that are working, lower wages than you and I, and outside this Chamber, I submit that that's the way life is. My family, we have two people working and I've worked two jobs as well, I think we all have, and I've worked for minimum wage back before it was \$5.15. Senator Foley also, I think admirably, suggested that kids that are working in fast-food restaurants or at minimum wage jobs, it wouldn't be a bad idea to help them get some more money for college or just, you know, let's help them out a little bit. Well, in fact, the folks that work in services in...that receive tips, their wage is \$2.13, and then they earn tips on top of that and they can credit against those earned tips. Student learners that are...we have a number of those that work at my company. Kids in high school or kids in college come in and work for a summer, student learners. We could pay them 75 percent of minimum wage. We don't. We start them off at \$6.50 an hour and we move them through. The real...the real point of this whole thing is minimum wage is a wonderful thing to talk about and I think, you know,...