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FLOOR DEBATE

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hear what you're saying. I don't know the answers, but I just thought I had to respond a little bit. There are a lot of people that were farming last year that won't be farming this year because lack of income. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Schimek, followed by Senators Beutler and Janssen.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I am going to pull this amendment in just a minute, but I wanted to say a couple of final things. First of all, I'm looking at the committee statement here and looking at the people who came in. And the people who came in and testified in favor of this bill are the AFL-CIO, the Nebraska State Utility Workers Conference, the Voices for Children, and the Nebraska Appleseed Center. These are all groups that work to help the people, and particularly the Appleseed and the Voices for Children, help the people who really don't have the money to afford the kinds of services and the kind of lifestyle that they would like. I'm looking at another chart here where it's talking about what a livable wage really is, and this is from something called "Business in Nebraska" which is presented by the Bureau of Business Research, I think Senator Beutler may have passed this out, where it talks about you really need, if you're single and you have no children, you really need \$8.67 an hour at least to have a livable wage. If you're a single parent with one child, you really need \$14.66. If you're a single parent with two children, you really need \$18.10, and if there is two parents and two children and one earner, you need \$15.33. So what we're talking about here today isn't going to cut it. It's not going to take care of the problem. It's just going to help the problem a little bit. I don't know about you, but the food banks and the soup kitchens and the homeless shelters in my community have more business than they have had maybe ever. There are more people who are in need out there right now than there have been at least in the last four or five years. And that's troubling. And maybe I wouldn't be so concerned about this issue of minimum wage if we weren't, at the same time, cutting off a lot of services. Think about the services we're cutting to people right now. I just read a story in the paper about a mother with a little girl whose childcare is in danger