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LB 608

level but it came down to the county level, and that study is part of the basis for the differentiation between the rural wage that is being put into Senator Bromm's amendment and the urban wage that is proposed by this particular amendment. So this figure that you're being given and which is being recommended to you is, again, not radical in any sense and I assume I don't have to convince you of that because you're more than willing to put that into the revised LB 270 program as it applies to the rural program. So the difference in the cost of living between the rural areas and the urban areas has been proven over and over and over again, so the difference between the rural wage that's been established in the LB 270 program and what I'm suggesting to you in this amendment should not be shocking or surprising in any way. There are, because of the structure of the amendment, it was necessary to make the change in a couple of different places and I would indicate to you...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...that we also retain, in the amendment, the adjustment calculation that pertains to the LB 270 minimum wage, that is the...as you may recall, for the rural minimum wage after the first year, then each January 1 after that you take the current rural Nebraska average weekly wage and divide it by the rural Nebraska average weekly wage for 2003 and the result is multiplied by, in the case of the rural wage, \$8.25, and each year then the factor is adjusted in order to continue to...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...make it fair over time, at least as compared to all other wages, which hopefully reflect some...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Time, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...some relationship to inflation.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Beutler. Thank you. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Beutler amendment, AM2058, to AM2005. Senator Beutler, your light is first, followed by Senator Chambers and Cunningham. Senator Chambers,