

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 9, 2004 LB 1049

motion on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Louden would move to amend.  
(AM2291, Legislative Journal page 507.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Louden, to open on your amendment to  
LB 1049.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I have introduced AM2291 to the LB 1049 to improve the earning ability of senior citizens. At the present time, a Social Security recipient is not allowed to receive full unemployment benefits. The premiums are paid in for an employee to receive a full benefit, but the recipient is receiving Social Security, they are discounted one-half of their Social Security benefit. The isn't a problem that affects a large number of people, but the people that are, have a hardship put upon them. First of all, they have to be older than 65. They must want to work and be able to hold a full-time job, and they are people who are trying to supplement a small Social Security income by working at a productive job. People that are affected by the ruling are folks that want to be independent and self-supporting, and we should do whatever we can to allow people in this age group to be self-supporting as long as they feel they are willing and able. The cost of implementing this amendment is not excessive. It is way better to allow some funding for senior citizens that are willing to work and be independent than to continue to allow legislation to be in place that penalizes ambitious people. It is very important for senior citizens to be able to work, be independent and productive. If the premiums are being paid for these people, they are entitled to the benefits. Anyone older than 65 who works for the state of Nebraska could be penalized. If there was a reduction in work force and anyone over 65 applied for unemployment benefits, they would have one-half their Social Security benefits deducted from the unemployment compensation that they are eligible to receive. A portion of their Social Security will be deducted from their unemployment benefits. This situation was brought to my attention by a Mr. Olson, after he worked at a job all summer. He then tried to apply for unemployment after the job closed down in the fall. When