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FLOOR DEBATE

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Senator Beutler has passed those out, the average cost per employee to an employer is \$119 per year. And we are forty-second in the country. So if an employer has five employees, they're going to pay roughly \$600 per year for unemployment insurance. And again, these numbers are provided by our Department of Labor. So if I'm wrong about them, or these numbers are wrong, then we'll discuss that with the Department of Labor. I'm sure Senator Baker will correct me. But I was not trying to be misleading at all. I simply said that was an average. And as I looked through this document provided by Nebraska Department of Labor, I stand by it. I think it is an accurate number. Some employers will have additional cost, based on their utilization, and some will not. That's what an average is. As I talked yesterday and before on the bill, I am absolutely not opposed to working something out where the people that are abusing the system are dealt with. Senator Cunningham talked about a few people there that broke the law, and as a result were fired, and then he seemed offended that they were actually collecting unemployment insurance. And I think if somebody breaks the law such that they get terminated, I'm not sure they should qualify. I don't think that Senator Louden's amendment is appropriate here, because I think unemployment insurance should be available only to those people who have no other income...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...other than perhaps their savings. And Senator Louden's amendment, as I understand it, would allow an individual receiving Social Security to also receive unemployment insurance, and I don't think that's appropriate. Senator Beutler earlier had an amendment regarding if a spouse left the state and took their other spouse with them. I don't know that that spouse should be able to get unemployment either, because if you make a family decision to take a different job in another state, I'm not sure that should qualify you for unemployment insurance. So what I'm saying is that we should not expand the program, as Senator Louden is advocating for, but I'm not sure that we should restrict it as Senator Cunningham is advocating in his bill, LB 1049. Again, I'm more than willing to work with Senator Cunningham and find a way to eliminate the