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much. In 43 of the states, it's more than what it costs our employers. The taxable wage base in 2004, you know, the taxable wage base in Nebraska was \$7,000, and is currently \$7,000. That was 44th among the states. Everybody else had at least that amount, and 34 of them, 34 states, had tax bases that were higher; 8, 9, all the way up to, some had tax bases that they taxed for unemployment insurance as high as 27, 30, 22, \$20,000. With this bill, we'll be going from \$7,000 to \$9,000, ultimately. Even when we go to \$9,000, we'll still be in the bottom half of the states in terms of the tax base that we actually tax...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...for purpose of unemployment insurance. Estimated average tax rate to the employers. In Nebraska, .4 percent; 38th among the states. Again, in many of the states, the estimated average tax rate is twice as much, and considerably higher. So we are not a state that is on the side of the employee. I don't think there's any way that you can argue that. You know, we're a state that has given considerable weight to the problems of the employer. And that is shown in every chart that was passed out by the Department of Labor.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Beutler. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I will make an acknowledgement that there are some things in the bill that are of great value. As Senator Beutler has pointed out on the mike, and some have mentioned in informal discussions, this array system can take politics out of certain aspects of the unemployment compensation system. However, what I hasten to point out is that we're in a political process now, determining whether that system will be put in place. If it's once there, politics can be removed. But we have political pushing back and forth. Here is what I had told Senator Cunningham I would agree to, and it would be an additional slam against the workers, but in the interest of doing something that might be better overall. If a person leaves employment now voluntarily, without good cause, the punishment, I call it--they call it a disqualification--can range from seven weeks to ten