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LB 478

Redfield. And we have before us something that is so targeted that I would argue that those who need it even more than in the urban areas of Sarpy County won't get anything. I would like to see us look at something using the same concepts of phasing in the exemption; start at a lower point, stretch it out over a longer period of time so that we can phase it in on a fair basis. For us to think that this is going to benefit so greatly, I just have a hard time understanding that. And actually, if Senator Cornett would yield to a question, I wanted to talk about the committee amendment just a bit.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Cornett, would you yield?

SENATOR CORNETT: Yes.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Cornett, on the committee amendment, I think it said that it's a \$40,000 threshold for those who will receive the benefit, right, above that?

SENATOR CORNETT: Yes.

SENATOR SMITH: Now...so if there was determined to be a shortage of workers for the \$35,000 threshold, that wouldn't apply, the exemption would not apply?

SENATOR CORNETT: From what was...what we received in regards to testimony and written documents, that the entry level for these positions that we're referring to is \$40,000, and that's why we set it at \$40,000.

SENATOR SMITH: But those military retirees making less than \$40,000 then...so no one would qualify, though, or there's no one out there with a job that pays less than \$40,000. Is that accurate?

SENATOR CORNETT: What was...what we received in the committee in regards to testimony from the companies that are interested in the military personnel, the entry level wage that they have is \$40,000. The average is \$65,000 and they range upward to