

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 23, 2005

LR 12

bit partial to my amendment. And my amendment is the next one on the list, that says that the salary for senators shall not exceed the federal poverty level for a family of four. That's approximately the same amount in this amendment. But it would be passively indexed, and not automatically tied to the consumer price index. I have some concern that if we put language on the ballot of the consumer price index attachment, that there will be several Nebraskans who will vote no because they're not entitled, their individual wage is not entitled to an increase according to the consumer price index. That is a big concern of mine. I want to propose something that I believe the voters can somewhat identify with, perhaps. Not that everyone in Nebraska can identify with the federal poverty wage for a family of four. But they probably know someone who is up against that. And that way, I think there's something tangible there for Nebraskans to review and hopefully cast an affirmative vote in support of. I look forward to the debate here. I seek not to demand that my way is the best way. I want to simply contribute to the cause of a problem...or, cause of a...toward a solution that needs to come about, I think, in a timely manner, especially as we are facing a transition here in the Legislature. So, I'm not sure how I feel yet on Senator Stuhr's amendment, but I look forward to the debate. And I would ask the body to review the amendments to see what they would most prefer. And hopefully, we can arrive at some sort of decision here in a timely manner. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Combs, on the Stuhr amendment.

SENATOR COMBS: Mr. President, members of the body, I would like to say that I enjoy being in the Legislature. And as most of us know in here, it is somewhat of a sacrifice when we do come in here. We come in here knowing that it's going to be a sacrifice. And employers...I'm very lucky that my employer works very well with me in allowing me to be off and to come here to serve, and also to work on weekends when I'm off, and the days that we're not in session here. However, I think employers are becoming less willing to work with people and allow them the flexibility that this job requires. And it's very few people, as we have had evidenced by the very articulate