

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

March 29, 2006

LB 554

than this rate in most areas of the state. And so I think that by having a teenage rate and a training rate, we took away some of the concerns of employers in the those few instances where they are actually paying the minimum wage.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR REDFIELD: My time is up. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I don't intend to talk. I intend to give my time to Senator Beutler, if he wants it. I mean, I don't intend to talk long. But I just want to go on record in favor of this. We do so much for those in this state who have so much in the way of means of helping themselves, and yet when it comes to those at the very lowest end of the totem pole, we rarely ever do anything. I can't remember, Senator Beutler, and you probably said, how many years we've been trying to get this minimum wage raised. How many? Nine years, nine years. We should have probably raised it nine times in those nine years, but we haven't. And I guess I just...it's hard for me to imagine that we can't do this today. I think...I appreciate Senator Redfield's arguments, but I think we also have to remember that many of those teenagers are contributing heavily to the family finances, or to their own funds that will enable them to be able to afford college or to go out in the workplace. So I strongly, strongly support Senator Beutler in his efforts. Senator Beutler, I wish it were more, and with that, I would like to give you the rest of my time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Schimek, thank you for the time, and thank you for the support. I might just take one second with the little bit of time that's left and ask you to look at this handout that says "Minimum Wage" at the top. It answers a lot of questions that you might have. And then back on the second page, towards the bottom, Senator Jensen, I thought you and some