

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

March 29, 2006 LB 554

don't have to do with minimum wage. They have to do with the Wal-Marts of the world, and I think you'd be the first to acknowledge that. And the other thing is, where does the cycle end? I mean, if you let the minimum wage get lower and lower and lower in purchasing power, and all those wages right above it drop in purchasing power, well, isn't that fewer people to buy groceries?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Isn't that fewer people at the restaurants? I mean, you start to lose your buying base, too.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Cunningham. Senator Kruse, followed by Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR KRUSE: Mr. President and members, thank you. Mr. President, would Senator Cunningham yield?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Cunningham, would you yield?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Yes.

SENATOR KRUSE: Senator Cunningham, I have the same anxiety that Senator Redfield talked about here, in terms of the 17 year olds. What was the thinking of the committee in taking out that lower level?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Quite frankly, I was having trouble remembering that, but didn't Senator Schimek address that? Did you hear the question here, Senator Schimek? Senator Kruse was asking what the thinking of the committee was when we took out the 17-year-old wage, or the 17 year old is where it kicks in, and we don't have any documentation of why we did that, and I've been asking different people, does anybody...it's been a year ago. Nobody remembers why we did that, but I'm wondering if it had to do with the wishes of other committee members. Do you have any thoughts on that?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schimek, if you want to use that mike there, you may.