

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

March 29, 2006 LB 554

doing business. I can see that it would encroach on the wage rate for the next level up, but I sure don't see any point to raising it above that. I've heard that argument before from others. Well, thank you. I would stand in favor of...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR KRUSE: ...what is before us. Our minimum wage is, frankly, an embarrassment, and I do know of some persons who are getting it. Caseworkers tell me about both parents working full time, and we still have to pay them some state benefits. That just does not seem right to me. If persons are working full time, they're adults, they are valuable to that employment, then they should get a wage that is appropriate to their contribution. And obviously, we got the rate set too low, as we look at the present rates. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Further discussion? Senator Stuthman, followed by Senators Beutler, Jensen, Redfield, and five others--six others.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I am very sympathetic to minimum wage. I'm very concerned. You know, I think it is very low, and I truly believe that there are very few that are working on the minimum wage, and those that are working on minimum wage, you know, are realistically students, part-time people. But the thing that I'm hearing in the community, at the workplace...and I would like to engage in a little conversation with Senator Beutler, if I may.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler?

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Senator Beutler, if we raise the minimum wage, and the conversation that I'm hearing in the communities, they feel that if we raise this 8 percent or 44 cents an hour, that all other wages will be entitled to that percent of an increase or that amount of an increase. Would you agree with that part of it?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I think there's some effect, and I