

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

March 29, 2006 LB 239

you that I put a high premium on higher education. Certainly we've worked hard to make sure that our children had that opportunity and I want to see that opportunity for as many children as are willing and able to avail themselves of it. But, Senator Schimek, I have a question.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR REDFIELD: This has been a national issue, and one of the issues that we have heard a lot about is whether in fact there should be any kind of penalty on businesses that hire people who are not in the United States legally. And my question is whether or not a student that might graduate from one of our state colleges, community colleges, university would be able to go out and be hired by a Nebraska business without fear of reprisal on the business or on the worker.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I think there's a many-pronged answer to that question, Senator Redfield. Part of the answer is, maybe not. Part of the answer is, it's probably already happening. And part of the answer is, the whole federal immigration law is in flux right now and that may be a moot question and a moot point in 30 days from now or six months from now. So I think...I think the answer is really that, yes, they could be prosecuted and so, therefore, the kids couldn't get hired, but in fact I think some of that does happen out there already.

SENATOR REDFIELD: All right. Thank you. What my concern is, and if the federal action takes place to allow people to work without penalty for both the employer and the employee, then I would certainly be a yes on this bill. But I have a great deal of concern about dangling a carrot in front of a young person and having them work hard, spend their hard-earned dollars on tuition to go out and get a degree, become a doctor, and then find out that they can't get a job in the state of Nebraska without reprisal. That concerns me a great deal. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Schimek, you may continue.