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FLOOR DEBATE

April 10, 2006      LB 554

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Clerk...Madam Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Yes, Senator Redfield. This is AM3168 that we received this morning.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you very much. I just wanted to make sure, so there was no confusion about what we're doing here. Those are the three elements. We're not addressing any of the government employees, we are addressing those who are under 17, and they would, by default, fall to the federal minimum wage, and we are addressing the third year incremental increase in the minimum wage, which after October 1 of 2008 would be reduced from the way the bill stands right now, to \$6.26 an hour. And I would be happy to give the remainder of my time to Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Redfield, thank you for the amendment and thank you for the time. Just to extend a little bit on her remarks, it is an effort to reach a compromise and, in particular, it's an effort to reach a compromise with the restaurant and grocery people who use an awful...a large number of young adults to do some of their work, and so now with this amendment, if they're 15 or 16 and they're bagging groceries or working at McDonald's, they will be under the current federal law. That means they're still at \$5.15 per hour. So that would stay that way. If you're under 17, we're making an exception. For everybody else, it's being increased now to the reduced amount, ultimately, of \$6.26. And I might also mention that the age 17 rule also applies, under this amendment, in the case of the tipping wage, so that's covered, too. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. You've heard the opening on AM3168, offered by Senator Redfield to LB 554. Open for discussion. Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I do rise up in opposition to this amendment and the bill itself, and I would like to ask Senator Beutler a question.