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opposed to us saying--because it would make me feel more comfortable--as opposed to us saying, all right, here we are at \$5.59, and then let's let a Legislature two years from now deal with that issue as to how it has affected business, as to how it's affected, you know, our economy, et cetera, et cetera. I mean, can you...and I would be willing to give you as much time as you need there to address that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Sure. Well, that's a fair question. I mean, first of all, I'm not sure that the federal government always does it in just one bump-up. I think they've staged it before, too.

SENATOR FRIEND: Okay.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But the effort in this instance to stage it in three stages was in response to a request from employers who said, well, if you jump it up all at once, that's a big jump all at once; do three small jumps over time, and that's easier to adjust to. So we responded to what they wanted and how they wanted to approach the problem, but as you know, the jumps don't come close to even covering the inflation that's taken place in the last nine years since it's changed.

SENATOR FRIEND: Well, fair enough. And thanks, Senator Beutler. I mean, I just wanted to point out, one of the things that gives me, I wouldn't even call it heartburn, but gives me...it puts me into a, what I would call, a concern mode, and Senator Beutler, I've shared it with him a little bit, is that I don't know that we're going to, with the incremental increases of \$5.59, \$6.02, and \$6.26, we're certainly not going to solve any social ills. This is not going to pull people out of poverty mode. I mean, we can do the math. If somebody is working a 40-hour week, I'm a little concerned, and we've already established, you know, that some of these things are sharp sticks and incentives to try to work toward better pay across the state. I understand that. But I am concerned that when we talk about trying to do what is right, what is right would be taking--and this is a pet peeve of mine--would be discussing certain types of illegal immigration in this state and not...