

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

April 10, 2006 LB 554

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Senator Beutler. When we look at the impacts though, Senator Beutler, how many people would be subject to the Redfield amendment? How many people would be taken out of receiving the minimum wage with the Redfield amendment?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Taken out from the receiving the state minimum wage?

SENATOR SMITH: Right. Correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: By virtue of the 17-year-old amendment?

SENATOR SMITH: Correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Somewhere between 6 and 10 percent of them.

SENATOR SMITH: Somewhere between 6 and 10 percent. And how did we arrive at that?

SENATOR BEUTLER: We arrive at that with Department of Labor figures with regard to the number of people by age groups on minimum wage.

SENATOR SMITH: So we don't have better records than the Department of Labor, than to say somewhere between 6 and 10 percent?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, no, we don't.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay, thank you. And herein lies my concern, that we have a mandate here, a well-intended mandate. And my concern is it's not going to reach the people who deserve it. We hear about government mandates over and over and over again, and we all want to do something about that, and then down the line there's some mandates that took place that had some unintended consequences and that cost a lot of money to a sector of our economy, and then it didn't work. I hope that we can do something that is fruitful in carrying out our objectives of doing the right thing. Thank you, Mr. President.