

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

April 10, 2006 LB 554

SENATOR BAKER: Mr. Clerk, would you clarify for the body what Senator Smith requests here?

CLERK: Well, Senator, your amendment effectively...all you're doing is modifying it to include lines 4 and...

SENATOR SMITH: Ten.

CLERK: ...10, lines 4 and 10, so it will read, page 1, lines 3, 4, and 10 strike "seventeen" and replace with "nineteen." Is that right?

SENATOR SMITH: Correct.

CLERK: Okay.

SENATOR BAKER: With that made of record, Senator Howard, you're next to speak.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Temporary President and members of the body. I stand in support of Senator Redfield's amendment, as well as Senator Beutler's original bill. Recently, federal officials came to Nebraska to talk to Health and Human Services Committee regarding the new mandate to move more people from welfare to employment. Present percentage is 34 percent; the new percentage is 50. Now this body has decided that that should be done, and that should be done without additional resources to the Health and Human Services Department. Keep in mind the population of individuals that will be intended to seek employment are people that have been unemployed for a considerable length of time, many of which have little education, little job skills, and oftentimes behavioral difficulties that make it more difficult to find gainful employment. I see this amendment and this bill as a very small carrot, an incentive, for people to feel that gainful employment is beneficial to them. I can't tell you the number of times I've heard, well, actually it's better to remain on welfare than it is to get a job. That's not the sort of mentality we want to cultivate in this state. We want to encourage independence, encourage self-sufficiency, encourage responsible taxpaying. I support this bill. I offer the remainder of my time to Senator