

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

April 13, 2006 LB 239

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Thank you, Senator Schimek. I have in front of me three pages of comments that I've prepared over the last three days, knowing that this veto was coming. But we've been here a long time and I'm not going to put you through all that. I'm just going to share one quick story that Senator Johnson happened to share with me yesterday, and that was when a devastating hail storm struck Kearney, Nebraska. It took out a large percentage of the roofs in that city, and the people that replaced those roofs in what was 102-degree-plus temperatures were immigrant workers. Nobody questioned the status, whether or not they had a Social Security number. That's only questioned when a time comes that it's convenient for us, like if they're trying to get ahead in life, and we think we need to hold them down. I hope that's not really a true statement. They need to be lifted up. We have shortages of doctors, nurses, teachers. These people could fill those positions, these young students who have already contributed greatly on high school athletic teams and academic teams. Let's finish the job that we started with "No Child Left Behind." Give these people a chance. With that, I will close with just one sentence that's very important to me and I hope it's important to you. Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Aguilar. Senator Schimek, there are five minutes left. Did you care to use any of the minutes?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I just thought of one other thing I'd like to say, and I'm not going to use the whole five minutes. I remembered that I forgot to remind everybody about the letter that we got from all the education groups in this state, from the University of Nebraska, from the state colleges, from the community colleges, from the state teachers' association, from the school boards' association, from the school administrators' association, from the Commissioner of Education. Without exception, they feel that this is a good bill and that we should pass it, and I would very much encourage it. Thank you.