

happen to be a certain age, that if they are injured in the performance of their work that they should not be covered under our workmen's comp law? We have exempted them. All this amendment does is it says we're going to put these folks under the umbrella, under the protection of workers' comp that if they get injured on the job they too should be eligible for purposes of disability. They would have to go through the same hoops that are spelled out in LB 757. They would have to I guess take the doctor that the employer gives them, 'cause I doubt that any of them will be unionized or that they will have the wherewithal to call the 1-800 numbers allowed for under LB 757. The fact of the matter is right now they don't even have those options. They're not eligible for these kinds of benefits. They're not eligible for these kinds of benefits and that, as one of the...my colleagues said, I said it was a crime, he said, no, it's a sin. It's a sin that we don't do this, that we don't cover these individuals and, ladies and gentlemen, that...the argument about, well, what's going to happen to the industry; is it going to be so expensive that, you know, the cost is going to be outrageous so that the papers aren't going to be able to employ these individuals? I would argue that many of them, if not all of them, are already covered for liability purposes that cover tragic kinds of accidents that might occur to these employees. This only extends that coverage for purposes of...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ..workmen's comp. It does not and in no way will it increase the cost to the employers, except in the cases like the one that's before you, that I handed out. How many of these do you hear about every year? Not very many, but those handful that do happen, that take place, those workers, and that's what they are, they're workers, ought to be compensated. Doesn't matter if they're 10 years old and ride a Stingray or a 10-speed. Doesn't matter if they're 12 years old and have pigtails. They ought to be covered under the workmen comp law as spelled out in LB 757. Presently, they couldn't work in a theatre. They couldn't work in a meat packing plant, but we're going to let them deliver papers...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR HALL: ..and very likely get hurt doing that without any compensation for disability.