

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

March 13, 2002 LB 825

for you but it's significant.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Out in the district one of the major things that we hear is we've got to get the cost of healthcare under control. It's just unbelievable what it costs this day and age. But self-employed people and farmers, they just simply cannot afford health insurance anymore. And I can tell you as a small businessperson it's getting harder and harder to offer this insurance. I truly think that Senator Foley is doing what he thinks, what is in his heart. I don't think he thinks it's going to raise premiums. I just happen to fall down on the other side of that right now and so I am going to support the bracket motion. And I apologize to Senator Foley for that. And if he has anything else, I would give the rest of my time to Senator Foley.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Foley, you have about two minutes.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you very much. Thank you, Senator Cunningham. I just want to respond again to the point that Senator Bourne made regarding this 3 to 5 percent increase in insurance premiums. Yes, it is true that there are states out there that have successfully removed the fertility exclusion and have mandated certain reproductive technologies, things like in vitro fertilization which are extraordinarily expensive. When you start mandating high-tech approaches to achieving a pregnancy, yes, that will drive up insurance rates, no question about it. That's not what this bill is about. This bill is about giving women the coverages that they're already paying for. They are paying for coverage for certain serious reproductive diseases and this bill seeks to give them the coverages that they're already paying for, nothing new, no new mandated coverages. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. You may continue if you wish. Your light is next, Senator Foley. Senator Foley. Senator Foley. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question before the body is, shall debate cease on the bracket motion of LB 825? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We're voting on ceasing debate. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please, Mr. Clerk.