

committee hearing there was no objection by any city officials or county government. What this bill attempts to do is within the scope of a state's right to legislate in the area of abortion without infringing upon a woman's right to an abortion as enunciated in the Supreme Court case of Roe v. Wade. The Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Maier v. Roe decided the question of whether or not a state must provide Medicaid payments for abortions which are not medically necessary. An issue in this case was a Connecticut welfare regulation under which Medicaid recipients received payments for medical service incident to childbirth but not for Medicaid services incident to nontherapeutic abortions. The court explained in the case that an individual's right to an abortion did not prevent Connecticut from making a valued judgement favoring childbirth over abortion and implementing the judgement by the allocation of public funds. I really believe that the same basic issue is had here and it shall be the policy of the State of Nebraska that insurance provided by public employees with public funds shall cover expenses of childbirth and not those of elective abortions. This bill would allow those who want abortion coverage to pay for it on their own. I believe if individuals feel as though they need this type of coverage, they should pay for it themselves and not expect the state or any other governmental unit to do so and as Senator Higgins mentioned, we at this time don't cover the essential parts of an insurance policy that cover, say for instance, cosmetic surgery, eye care, dental care, hair transplants, several others, drug abuse, psychiatry, alcohol treatment, some of these are very necessary for the health and welfare of our children and of course the adults also. The total number of employees that we are talking about is approximately 108,000 government employees, the state with 33,000 and approximately 75,000 local government employees. These figures came from the Department of Labor. Senator Chambers mentioned the fact that it doesn't amount to that much money. At 108,000 employees with approximately \$6.00 a year amounts to \$648,000. I got the figures from Blue Cross - Blue Shield. The charges filed from 1978 to 1979 was \$37,187. The amount paid was \$28,000 and that is a very small amount compared to the amount that we are paying for 108,000 local and state employees. Senator Dworak did pass out to you three Attorney General's opinions. In every one of them if you will read them over carefully, you will find out that what we did last year on LB 1004 is constitutional. I urge the members of this Legislature to advance LB 125 to E & R initial. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING