

SENATOR CLARK: Before further continuing with the bill I would like to have the pleasure of announcing from Senator Warner's district, 26 eleven and twelfth grade students from Murdock Grade School, from Murdock Consolidated Schools from Murdock, Nebraska. Mr. Ken Glantz is the teacher with three assistants. They are in the North balcony. Will you stand and raise your hands please? Also on to the South balcony, guests of Senator VonMinden, Darrel and Betty Curry from Newcastle, Nebraska. Will you stand please? Welcome to the Legislature. I think we have an amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have several. The first is offered by Senator Wesely. Senator Wesely moves to amend LB 125: "On Page 2, line 4 strike "public funds" and insert "state general funds". That is offered by Senator Wesely.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this amendment I think deals with one of the key points to this legislation that needs to be discussed and which I think can lead to a compromise on this proposal. As Senator Labeledz mentioned LB 1004, the intent bill, had provisions in it which suggested that the State of Nebraska not include coverage for our state employees which included coverage for abortion in their health package and I thought that when we deal with the issue of coverage for abortion, this State Legislature has a legitimate role in terms of what sort of coverage we provide for our state employees in the State of Nebraska. I didn't have too great of difficulty with dealing with that issue but I do have difficulty with the State Legislature mandating onto all subdivisions of government and covering all public funds and not allowing anyone in the State of Nebraska through negotiations or other processes on a local level to decide for themselves whether or not they want to include coverage for abortion or not. I think it is a local control argument that is a strong one in this body and I would certainly encourage those of you who have advocated local control to keep that in mind when deciding how to vote on this amendment but again I get back to the point that I would have no problem with this legislation. I would support this legislation if it applied to state employees and the state general funds and not allowing those to be used for abortion coverage. I think that is our legitimate role and one which we can assume and if that is a position that the majority of this body takes, I have no difficulty with that, but again I think we are imposing on local governments if we pass this bill as it presently stands and I could not