

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I agree with Senator Landis' conclusion and I also agree with what Senator Cullan said about the use he will make of the position he finds himself in as a member of the Legislature. I have never made the local control argument except as a foil against those who are taking a position on an issue that I disagreed with in which case any argument that I feel is legitimate I will use to make my point of view prevail. Senator Cullan has finally put into perspective what it is we are voting on as I tried to earlier. We are voting on our attitude toward abortion and I would like to ask Senator Labeledz a question so I can totally clear the air. Senator Labeledz, can you say that your motivation in cosponsoring this bill was the cost of the coverage for this procedure in group policies?

SENATOR LABEDZ: I represent and myself feel very strongly about abortion. You know that from previous years. So I would say anything that I do on this floor for the cause of the pro-life issue is mine and my constituents and the thousands of people in the State of Nebraska.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But here is what I am asking you, cost was not the motivating factor, was it? It was something much deeper and to you something much more significant than that.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Yes, it was much deeper. No one wants to use their tax dollars, that I represent, for abortions.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. The point I want us to get to if we can is to a consideration of how we react to this issue and the issue is abortion, not the cost of the coverage. Were it to be the cost of the coverage we could go through all of the things that are covered in an insurance policy for a group of employees and determine that for the cost of the coverage it is not worth having it. So now that it is squarely before us, I have to let you know again that I don't feel the Legislature ought to do the thing that it is doing, not because it supplants local control or anything else, but we know the realities of this society, not only in terms of illicit sexual activities that result in unwanted pregnancies and children who will not be cared for but the penuriousness of legislative bodies whether we are talking about Legislatures at the state level or the Supreme Legislature at the national level, when children come into this world, although there are people who would fight and die, they say, to make sure that no woman would have an abortion they are the same ones who turn a very cold, flinty face to