

I am not the one whose record has to be examined here, Senator Dworak. Perhaps yours and others and Senator Cullan who offers his in this case are worthy of examination. I will accept the idea if this is what you propose that the state is responsible. The buck stops here were your words, borrowed from President Truman, that the state is the ultimate public policymaker and if that is the case, I look forward to those proposals that you will be offering to have the state determine zoning, salaries, fringe benefits for local political subdivisions, housing codes, sanitation. I am going to be pleased to see you address the agenda with the level of concern that you have for local political subdivisions all the way down the line. I don't think it will be forthcoming. I think that you are caught in the middle here and, in fact, the policy that you enunciate today is one that you will renounce a week away from now as you return to the idea of local control. The issue squarely is, as Senator Chambers says, abortion. It is not insurance coverage. It is not the cost. It is not the very, very few tax dollars that can be identified in this one area. It is abortion and the proponents of LB 125 have found one segment of the population that they can zero in and restrict access to abortion. They know they can't do it across the board because that is unconstitutional but they have found a constitutional method to single out a certain segment of the population and penalize them. In the committee I was told privately and I believe it is available to anyone else in this body that no insurance company in this state will offer abortion only coverage which means then that if we knock out abortion coverage under a general package, that those 108,000 employees will have no way of insuring that risk. Senator Dworak has for years championed the idea of insurance, has championed the idea of using insurance as a way of covering your risks and now clearly states that a 108,000 employees in this state may not insure against the risk of abortion because, number one, they can't use it in a general health insurance policy and, number two, any insurance company in this state will tell you they are not going to start writing an abortion only coverage which means 108,000 people are being singled out and their....

SENATOR CLARK: You have twenty seconds.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...access to abortion is going to be limited by LB 125 and because we can play fast and loose in this way and still meet constitutional standards, we have restricted access to abortion for some because we can't get to all. I think that is a petty approach and I don't support it. I support the Wesley amendment. I hope it passes.

SENATOR CLARK: Your time is up. Senator Dworak.