

February 26, 1981

LB 125

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol and Senator Goodrich have not.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Have not? Let's look for them a little bit more.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The others are either present or have been excused. There are two excused. Okay, a roll call vote on the adoption of the Haberman amendment to LB 125. The Clerk will call the roll.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See pages 677 and 678, Legislative Journal.) 21 ayes, 25 nays, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The call is raised.

CLERK: Mr. President, I now have a second amendment from Senator Haberman. The amendment reads as follows: (Read Haberman amendment found on page 678, Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and fellow legislators, I will be brief on this. The bill says, "This section shall not prohibit the insurer from offering individual employees special coverage for abortion if the costs for such coverage are borne solely by the employee." The amendment says...will read that they shall provide the insurance for the individual employee for special coverage if the cost for such employee are borne solely by the employee. This is a choice that makes them offer it, because as it is now the insurance company does not have to offer it. So this will give the employee the choice of saying yes or saying no. It is my dollars. It is no longer tax dollars. With this amendment, I can support LB 125. I ask you to adopt the amendment that says the insurer shall offer the insurance and it shall be paid for by the employee out of his own money. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: We have about three minutes left on this bill. The next speaker is Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this amendment is unneeded. I have in front of me some information on Blue Cross coverage and I would like to read it to you. "Information on Blue Cross based on 66 of a total 74 regional plans was supplied by the Blue Cross Association in response to a request for information. Information for 5 plans was not available and 3 did not provide coverage of abortion. Abortion may be covered under one of three mechanisms, a basic contract, a rider or a major medical contract. A general outline of each follows. Basic, 58 of the 66 Blue