

in the specifications. Now last year we passed an amendment to an intent bill that the Governor interpreted to mean that we should adopt this for state employees and Blue Cross-Blue Shield did not offer any sort of rider to state employees to allow abortion only coverage. So in fact we have tested this in Nebraska. No matter what statistics Senator Labeledz shows for other states, the insurance industry in Nebraska is either too insensitive or too scared to offer this option, and I think that may be some reasons that we see that Nebraska insurance companies are losing public employee contracts in this state and out of state companies are gaining some of the group policies, but that is another question. It seems to me that unless we specify in this bill that this option will be provided, we will not see in Nebraska the abortion only coverage rider available to our employees. So in fact it is a myth that this could be available or would be available to our public employees. I appreciate Senator Labeledz' statistics indicating that in other states there are insurance companies that are offering this. I think that, therefore, it shows that it is a practical alternative that could be available. All we have to do is ask that our insurance companies provide that, but it appears to me that if we do not ask for that, that, in fact, this abortion only coverage where the employee pays one hundred percent of the cost will not be available to Nebraska employees. Experience in Nebraska indicates that to be the case, that without Senator Haberman's amendment or some statement from this Legislature or the governing board that we want this option, the insurance industry will not offer it for its customers.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, handed out this morning and placed on our desks was an editorial from the Lincoln Journal, the past Saturday's paper, I presume. I didn't get to see it until it was placed on my desk but I think it really deals with the actual issues that are being brought before us in the handling of this bill. There are those who have a certain imperiousness in trying to determine how other people will live their lives. There is, I would say, an inclination not to be concerned about the welfare of children after they come into this world despite all the shilly-shallying we are doing this morning pretending that we are concerned about the cost of an insurance rider. I think Senator Labeledz and Senator Dworak and the others who will probably lead an effort against this amendment and every other one should frankly state that money is not the consideration. Insurance policies, the concerns about the companies have nothing to do with it. They have determined that women who are public employees for the State