

cations arising from abortions. We have this provision in LB 125 and nothing additional is required. Nothing further is necessary and I think that this amendment should be rejected. I can't stress enough that this Legislature will be taking a misdirected step if this amendment is adopted. It will amount to a statement on behalf of abortion. It is a position we are not compelled to take just because we have decided not to subsidize abortion. This is a very bad amendment and I urge the members of this body to reject the amendment. Thank you very much.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, this is one of those issues that you kind of get somewhat in a crack on and I am going to try to explain why this amendment is before it and incidentally, I was one that voted against this amendment in the committee, but during the debate when we debated and passed LB 125 it was my position, not my position by choice but my position by just reality that if someone could get abortion coverage with their own money, so be it because there isn't anything we could do about that anyway. Now that does not mean that I am advocating or that I am supporting people go out with their own money to get abortions. It means I can't do anything about it. That is what it means and I can't and I am willing to live with that, but now we are mandating that this type of benefit be made available. We are taking an overt action this body and saying, is that you shall provide this type of coverage. Now that is something I can say something about because that is not a constitutional question for me to say that Blue Cross - Blue Shield or any other insurance carrier shall provide anything. That is a decision that that carrier makes. That is not the Legislature's responsibility to say that you shall provide cancer coverage or you shall provide coverage against coronaries or you shall provide coverage for chiropractors. That is not a legislative decision. This is a precedent that in my opinion is unnecessary, cumbersome, meddlesome governmental interference in the private sector. Now if Blue Cross or any other carrier decides to provide this coverage, and a state employee voluntarily decides to avail themselves to this coverage, there is nothing I can do about it. I am not saying there isn't anything I would like to do about it, but there is nothing I can do about it. But then what this particular amendment does is go one step farther, other than saying if it is available you can buy it, we are not going to say or do anything about it, we are now saying, you shall provide it, and that is a step too far. Now it's a traditional record of this body on abortion and it has been solid and it has been consistent and in every