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LB 556

way that it constitutionally could discourage abortions, it has done. For this body to adopt this amendment would be a tremendous reversal of the position it consistently held. Many of you who voted traditionally and consistently against abortions would be very inconsistent in your voting record if you would support this amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think we owe the other side an obligation to listen to Senator Fowler tell us why we should reverse our position and I don't think this Legislature is inconsistent enough to take one position on LB 125 and another one here, and so I am going to oppose this attempt by Senator Fowler and others to accomplish through the Appropriations Committee what they failed to do in LB 125. But with that, I think the Legislature will be consistent on this issue and so I will urge you to reject the Appropriations Committee amendments and I will yield to someone else on the other side that can tell me why I am wrong.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Fowler. This is not time that Senator Cullan gave you. It's your own time.

SENATOR FOWLER: Okay, I will take both. There are so many reasons, Senator Cullan, that you are wrong. I don't even know where to begin. This is an amendment not to contradict 125, it's an amendment to implement 125. The pledges that were made on this floor was that the only concern with 125 is that the state's share of insurance not be used to pay for the cost of abortions. If someone, and I don't know how many times I heard this said, if someone wanted to pay for it with their own money, they should be able to do so. There were those supporting 125 who stood up and said, there are insurance carriers that do provide this in many states as a rider, and all we are saying is that tax money should not be used for abortion. Well, today now those same people are saying, we want to make sure that state employees can't use their own money to pay for abortions. 125 mandates nothing of the insurance companies. It is not an imposition, or this amendment does not mandate anything of the insurance companies. It says that...all it does is say that the state shall have available abortion only coverage if the employee wants to pay a hundred percent of the cost. And I thought that was the idea behind the first bill when Senator Labeledz and Higgins and Dworak were pushing 125. It doesn't say that Blue Cross in its policy is going to be forced to provide this. The responsibility is on the state to make sure that this option is available if the employee wants to pay one hundred percent