

bill, on page 7, it states on line 16, the director shall appoint a member of the core team to act as a service region director. In order to carry out the provisions of this section, the department, acting on behalf of each region, may contract with local public health departments and other community agencies for a service. I would like to ask Senator Lynch a question if he would so yield.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch, would you respond to a question?

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, ma'am.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Under this bill, could the State Department of Health or one of the regional core teams contract with, say, Planned Parenthood or any other family planning agency which does abortion counseling and refers for abortions?

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes. But that would never happen as long...well, no, let me...I can say, sure, anything is possible but that's the reason the committee did not accept the amendment that was suggested. And I'm concerned that in the process of suggesting we want to make sure we don't allow lives to be lost; we also, by not passing this legislation, do not, in fact, do that very same thing, lose lives because we don't recognize the public health responsibility. That public health department recommendation from that area can only do what is recommended to do and, in fact, fund it. So there would have to be a support for and an agreement of that kind of thing within this public health program just as it does on the local level as well, now existing.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Senator Lynch. I am still very concerned. It is a good bill in other respects, but I still believe that abortion is included as a public health service and I am very, very, very careful about voting to advance LB 338 at this time. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Haberman, please.

SENATOR HABERMAN: I call the question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Haberman moves the previous question. Do I see five hands? I do. The question before the body then, shall debate cease? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay.