

found a way of trying to put it in writing. You will find on your desk a handwritten amendment. This handwritten amendment says what I think, as a listener, both sides say. Let's take a look at it. Take this piece of paper out, if you would, and take a look at it. I was here and I heard Senator Labeledz's argument when she attached her amendment and she basically asked Senator Scofield if, in fact, this bill was a bill to allow and support for abortion and contraceptive counseling. And Senator Scofield said, no, it's about a lot of other things but that's not our intention. Senator Labeledz said, well, fine, basically let's put that in the bill. You're telling me your intention is to do something else, we'll build in this statement that says you can't use it for abortion and contraceptive counseling. Senator Scofield and Senator Nelson, because of the Attorney General's Opinion, said, now wait a second, wait second, Senator Labeledz, is it your intention to kill this bill? Is it your intention to put in here a kicker that does something more than what you say and make it run afoul to the Constitution? And Senator Labeledz said, no, that's not my intention. Now, I want what it is that I got on General File which is that this is not to pay for abortion and contraceptive counseling and the difference is this. The difference, by the way, revolves on the constitutional issue. If the...if the language in 662 that Senator Labeledz put in says that grantees, people who receive this money, can't spend it for abortion and contraceptive counseling, then it's constitutional. But if, on the other hand, the language is interpreted to mean that somebody who does abortion and contraceptive counseling can't be an eligible service provider even if that's not the service that they provide, then the bill is unconstitutional. Why? Because the money that's out there is trying to coerce them out of talking about something that's legitimate to talk about. So this language says two things. It says service providers may not use grant money to pay for abortion or contraceptive counseling or referral service costs. That's what Senator Labeledz argued should be in this bill. Right? Second sentence, service providers who provide such services are eligible for grants, for costs, for prevention, early identification and intervention services only as defined in this section. That section enumerates a number of things, none of which include abortion or contraceptive counseling. Senator Labeledz, would you yield to a question?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Labeledz.