

abortion and contraceptive referral. That's how I mean to read...that's how I mean that to read. In other words, there are two and only two reasons why the provi...there are only two things under the basis of this language that are out of bounds for the service provider as...for reimbursement, for receiving grants. Those two things that are out of bounds are abortion counseling or referral and contraception counseling and referral. If I understand it, that really isn't the thrust of the bill anyway and so I don't think there is any difficulty in declaring that which is so, so long as we don't throw at the same time in those institutions which may provide those services but we knock them out of the bill because of the interpretation Senator Labeledz stated on the floor a moment ago.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you. I'm not...I don't really think your amendment says that but I know that's your intent and that would certainly be my intent too. The other point that I want to make, and I think I'm going to oppose this language because I think it's...again, I think it's vague language and I don't think it, unfortunately, I don't think it helps. The other thing that I'm hearing people on this floor say, the abortion issue is the issue that people are concerned about, it isn't the contraception issue, that people recognize the need for contraception in this country and to prevent unwanted pregnancies and this...that was not raised on the last round and perhaps I should have raised that or somebody should have, but probably should have been me, I'm the sponsor of the bill but, I guess, again, I just didn't envision this area being dragged in to this whole discussion. I have, since the last time I spoke, gotten information back and, Senator Labeledz, pay attention, please, and others, we called Social Services. We called the review team on the last round of grants, remember, I said we had 72 applicants, 72 applicants from across the state. Communities are anxious, dying to get this money. They want to use it. None, absolutely none, zero of those communities applied for any grant that had anything to do with abortion or contraception counseling. So I think we're making much ado about nothing here. The communities are smart enough to know not to get embroiled in this kind of controversy and it seems to me that not only are we not giving communities credit for having good judgment, but we are wasting, in the last few hours of this Legislature, tremendous amounts of time arguing about what is a nonissue. These communities haven't exhibited any interest at all in coming in and applying for grants to do this and so I'm just dismayed that we have gotten so sidetracked. I would also