

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Nelson. You have heard the closing. We will now proceed to vote on the amendment as offered by Senator Nelson. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 11 ayes, 26 nays, Mr. President, on the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: The amendment fails. The call is raised. Next item on the bill, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Withem would move to amend the bill. Senator Withem's amendment is on page 1509 of the Journal.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, first of all, I would like everybody to be perfectly clear. This is the amendment on page 1509. Several of you had received phone calls instructing you to oppose the Withem amendment to LB 425. That, I believe, was the version on page 1426, which language is very similar with a key difference that I will get into. For once on this issue, I did receive lots of comments from individuals questioning my intentions of what I was doing with this amendment. I reread the original version of the amendment back on the earlier page, and agreed that there could be some problems, as were pointed out to me by the people making the phone calls. So I do have...the amendment we are referring to is on page 1509. I would like to make just a few general remarks about this issue. I have been here for eight years. I have never, in those eight years, gotten to my feet to speak on an issue that is related to the question of abortion. The reason for that is in many ways this is one issue that, by our previous actions as a body, the message is sent that you don't participate in this discussion if you want to make reasonable, rational remarks. You are either pro-life or you are pro-choice, and there is no in-between. You cannot make suggestions onto a pro-choice bill to improve that bill without being branded as being pro-life. The same thing on a bill like this. You cannot make suggestions to improve a process on a pro-life bill without being branded as being pro-choice. That doesn't exist on practically any other type of issue we, as a body, attempt to deal with. If it is a gambling issue, and you don't particularly like gambling, you can offer amendments to