

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, and members of the body, I believe this will probably be something that you will wind up paying attention to here yet this evening although I find it unfortunate that you will. I have an amendment filed and I want to give you a little background of why the amendment was filed and why I intend to withdraw it. LB 167 deals with self-funding. We debated this bill and, as you remember, self-funding is this mechanism which allows political subdivisions, local political subdivisions to try to cut their health care cost by self-funding the deductible portions, buying excess insurance and then having a group coverage that would cover the other parts. There are many different plans around the state. One of them is, in fact, Omaha that is completely self-funded and many of these have operated for a number of years. There was a concern that arose about abortion coverages. Does that apply? At first wash, I said, no, no, it just isn't the issue at all. But there was a concern that arose about, are you sure, because there's this statute and the statute is 44-1615.01. And I said, well, we'll take a look at it. If you have some concerns, I will file this amendment and then we will look at it. I have had a chance to look at it for four days. I've probably not spent any more time on one amendment, thinking about it morning, noon and night, looking at it, and I've concluded, as I think a number have, and I think that you will, if anyone else does desire to try to do this, the statute covers self-funding, it covers LB 167. This is not the time nor the place, it is inappropriate to discuss whether abortion funding has anything to do with LB 167 because the statute does apply. And, with that, I intend to pull that amendment because I feel it inappropriate at this point in time. I think that all sides have examined this and feel comfortable of what's going...of what I'm doing with pulling this amendment. With that, Mr. Clerk, I would ask to have my amendment pulled.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment is pulled. Is there anything further?

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Lynch would move to return the bill for a specific amendment. Senator, your AM2093. (See page 2686 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Lynch.