

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...that the public policy is clear. There is to be no public money spent in whole or in part for abortion coverage for any public employee, including locals and everyone of them will be covered by LB 167's effect. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Members of the body, Senator Lynch, I'm not going to take the bait tonight, just not going to do it. This body has fought viciously over the last few years and, obviously, I have been in the middle of a lot of that over the topic of pro-life, pro-choice, parental notification, abortion in general. And I understand, Senator Lynch, that you don't like the bill and I understand your dismay when Senator Kristensen withdrew it because wouldn't it be nice to bring those same forces together against each other tooth and nail and defeat 167, which is really what you want to do. And I understand that. I appreciated when you said I'm pro-life and everyone else who is pro-life will support the amendment and if you're pro-choice, you won't. I appreciate that. The bait was there. You dangled it in front of us but I'm not going to take the bait because this issue needs to be decided on whether or not we agree with 167 or not. The body, I think, can rise above on both pro-life and pro-choice side, we can rise above the bait that's being thrown out there that everyone wants to gamble and throw...throw themselves at, we can rise...we can do better than that. I was all prepared to get all upset and have amendments filed and do whatever and then it dawned on me, I wasn't going...I just wasn't going to do that because it's not worth it, number one, because, as Senator Kristensen explained, and there's no one who has had a better...not many people, at least, have had a better pro-life voting record than Senator Kristensen. Senator Kristensen has, in his view, looked at the existing law very carefully and he is absolutely convinced that the section of law that Senator Bernice Labeledz worked so hard years ago to get in applies and it covers. And I think the body can say, I understand why Senator Lynch is doing that, it sure helps cause problems with 167. But I, for one, would ask the body that let us, if we don't vote, that's fine, if you vote yes...I mean, if you vote no, that would be fine. Senator Landis has suggested just not voting one way or another is fine.