

But let us not fall into the trap, members of the body, let us simply say the law is there, we understand that it's there, we understand that it covers in the case of LB 167 and let's simply vote on whether or not we agree with the concept of 167. That's what the Legislature should do and I would urge the body to join me in doing that this time as well. Thank you.

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

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I rise to support the Senator Lynch amendment. In 1981, as it has been said, LB 125, which contained the provisions of that section 44-505.01 (sic) was passed by the Legislature and, in essence, it provides that no group insurance contract or health maintenance agreement paid for in whole or in part with public funds shall include coverage for abortions as defined in Section 28-326. I had some deep concerns on Select File, if you recall, I introduced the amendment that stated, employee benefit plans established pursuant to the Political Subdivision Self-funding Benefits Act shall comply with the section I just read to you, 44-1615.01, in the same way as group insurance contracts and health maintenance agreements. I was very concerned, at that time on Select File, and I did speak to Senator Kristensen and agreed that he would put a motion to return on Final Reading and we would go through with the amendment as I introduced on Select File and so the LB 167, I believe, advanced on a voice vote at that time. The provisions within the bill may not be considered a group insurance contract or a health maintenance agreement, thus LB 167 may not apply to the public employees provision contained in Section 44-1605 (sic). The amendment would clarify and although, Senator Landis and Senator Bernard-Stevens, I do...I am grateful to them because they did give us some good legislative history or intent in discussing the bill, but I feel obligated to vote and I have informed Senator Kristensen and others that I would be voting against LB 167 because of the concerns that I have had since I withdrew my amendment on Select File. It is true that in 1981 I worked very hard and long on LB 125. Many of you weren't here 10 years ago but that has been on the statute...in the statutes since then and I feel obligated now to stand before you and tell you my objections and my concerns. And I did ask Senator Kristensen at the time to be sure that he stood before you and gave you some of his explanation. We've talked to several attorneys. Some say it will not affect the section that was