

February 8, 1996 LB 532

physicians rather, under the terms of LB 532. I urge the adoption of the committee amendment and then Senator Brown to explain the bill.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Senator Landis, I just want a quick answer to this, nothing elaborate. But what does it mean when you say they have to meet the credentialing standards? Would you explain that, please.

SENATOR LANDIS: Yes, in the...the company can set out saying, here's what we want for a primary care physician, those terms. And if a GP meets them they can be a primary care physician under that program, and if an OB-GYN can meet them, they can be a primary care physician.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: So the credentialing process is not something that's done through the Department of Health, has to meet certain standards of certain examining boards. It's more that it's the insurance company's list of things that you have to be able to do? Am I understanding this correctly?

SENATOR LANDIS: I'm trying to look for the exact language, I may find it here. Although Senator Brown was responsible for it, let me see if I can state it. Any entity which offers an individual group sickness and accident insurance policy and this says "shall include obstetricians/gynecologists as primary care physicians if they otherwise qualify as a primary care physician pursuant to the credentialing or recredentialing standards of that entity." That's the company, the company is the entity, so they do credentialing, and they perform all the functions of a primary care physician.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you. And, Senator Brown, may I ask you a question.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Brown.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: First of all,...

SENATOR BROWN: Yes.