

February 8, 1996 LB 532

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...congratulations on working this out because I think it's a difficult issue that insurance companies were in opposition to this, and I think that's great. But, basically, everybody came to the table and everybody agreed to this?

SENATOR BROWN: Yes.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Seeing no further discussion, Senator Landis waives closing. The question before you is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 532. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of committee amendments, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The committee amendments are adopted. The Chair recognizes Senator Brown to open on the bill.

SENATOR BROWN: Madam President, members of the body, LB 532 is about women who traditionally have used and considered their OB-GYNs as their primary physician, women, who through childbirth and other aspects of intimate care, develop a unique relationship with their OB-GYN, women whose health issues are often gender related, women who may be less likely to avail themselves of yearly gynecological care when there is a gatekeeper barrier or other disruption of care. The committee amendment, which is now the bill, requires that OB-GYNs designated as primary care physicians by female patients who are enrolled in managed health care insurance programs shall meet the terms and conditions of the managed care health insurance programs primary care physician contract. This language balances the goals of providing access to women for primary, preventative health care while allowing businesses which purchase plans and the health insurance industry to control costs through managed care. There will be no additional cost for insurance through this change because the OB-GYN will agree to the terms of the contract, such as capitation rates. The Nebraska Medical Association definition for primary care physician states that they may be age or gender specific. Pediatricians are currently considered as primary care physicians. OB-GYNs will choose whether to be considered as a