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LB 845

self-determination? That's true. However, that gives rise to a number of problems--low wages, little opportunity, little chance for employees to say things. And you know, there's a method for dealing with the powerlessness of employees and it's called a labor union, and it deals...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...on a wide variety of fronts. That's the way you bargain at the table to make sure you have self-control in the workplace. Freedom of choice is the argument I make on the abortion issue. Freedom of choice is the argument I make when I support family planning and make it available to women in this state. Freedom of choice is the argument I make in opposing 845 being pulled to the floor, and I find myself being consistent across the board. I believe individuals, and not the state, should determine what's in their best interests in this area, and to me there's a thread running through this whole thing and that is trusting individuals or trusting in their ability to organize for themselves in having their own say, and that's why I think we should not raise 845. By the way, I will close with this point. Just as a test of the mettle of the committee, introduce a bill next year that mandates the coverage of Viagra and see what your all-male insurance committee does with that bill.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: It will go down, seven to nothing, on the same basis.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, it's obvious, if Viagra came up now, what they would do, because they've been alerted. I hope women are listening. I've never heard Senator Landis so patronizing, so flippant and trivializing something so serious. He knows how serious this is, and to pretend that a labor union is going to settle the problems that these women face is totally unreasonable. There are nurses trying to unionize in Omaha now. He knows the efforts that are taken, not only to prevent unionization, but to undermine unions that exist right now. He