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simply that, one, I do not think it's simply a male thing, and, two, I will not vote to pull it from committee. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSN: Senator Kiel, followed by Senator Tyson, Landis, Chambers, and Beutler.

SENATOR KIEL: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I want to bring us back to what this bill actually requires, and that is that it covers prescriptions and out-patient services...or, excuse me, would cover prescription contraceptives and associated out-patient services in the same manner as the plan covers prescription and out-patient services. It's not asking for an insurance company, if they do not cover these things, to cover prescription contraceptives in and of themselves. I want to throw a couple of statistics at you in that 61 percent of reproductive age women who practice contraception use reversible methods. Using birth control pills is known as a reversible method. Data shows that 49 percent of plans that are preferred provider plans, 20 percent of point of service plans, and 7 percent of health maintenance organizations cover no reversible contraception. So when we're talking about things that are required to be covered, we know that this is one of the things that women use probably almost more than any other health service and are less likely or least likely to actually have them covered. I would remind you that when we're talking about mandates, until it was mandated, mammograms were not covered. Until it was mandated, 48 hour stays for delivery of a child was not covered. In fact, some women were finding that they couldn't even spend 24 hours in the hospital after having a child, that they were shunted out the door because their insurance plans didn't consider that to be very serious and didn't want to cover that particular health need. I will also, in case my fellow senators are not aware of this, until 1978, insurance companies, excuse me, health plans didn't cover basic prenatal and delivery services. It required the enactment of a federal law, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978, to even ensure that women had coverage for pregnancy and delivery. We have not found the services that are directed solely to women to have been covered very well over the years. We pay more than 68 percent...we pay 68 percent more in out-of-pocket expenses for medical care than women, and much of the monetary gender gap is due to reproductive health-related prescriptions and