

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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this the last amendment? Mister...there's another amendment? Okay. Here's what I want to say. You might remember that when LB 480 did not move a year ago I had...I was one of the people, the 24, who voted for it. I have some reservations about setting up a new entity within the Health Department, but in the meantime, during the interim, I visited with ethicists. Medical ethics these days is a growing and needed group of people and discipline that we need more of because of the life issues, not just abortion but the end of life too. If you had spent the last two years as I have out at Madonna and see people who have Alzheimer's and/or some other ailment that they can't walk, and there was a picture of a 97-year-old woman in the paper the other day who's in their little bell choir out there. She simply cannot stay home alone and take care of herself. She's around and smiles and goes to church services. She's with it, but she has to have help. In some societies, the Netherlands, for example, she might...they might decide she's 97, too bad, good-bye. One of the ethicists that I visited with during this interim does not live here in Lincoln but she, and all three of these people are women, she said that she had spent some time in the Netherlands and it gets to the point in the homes for the elderly that the old people are afraid to drink the orange juice in the morning. Can you think that...what that means? That means they're lacing it with some kind of drug that will help them depart this life and I...that, for me, is just a terrible thing that we must resist and we must be very careful of. But the second thing, each one of these ethicists, and two of them were Catholic women who are highly involved in medical ethics every day in their professional life, they are highly involved, every one of them, after they spent time looking at this bill and in analyzing it and so on, supported the bill. Their only reservation, and I think probably you took care of that when I wasn't here on the first round a couple of weeks ago, their only reservation was that none of the funds nor any of the efforts within this group would help any organization who refers or performs abortions. Senator Schimek's amendment I think makes this pretty close to what pro-life people would want. I'm pro-life and all three of these women that I visited with, they're all pro-life. One is a non-Catholic, two of them are Catholics. And they have, as I say, they're heavily involved and I was so impressed with them that it gave me an insight to this bill and to women's health in general. You've heard all of