

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 27, 2005 LB 119

fact, there are fewer products available to people. And less competition means the prices go up and the consumer is disadvantaged. I am an advocate of the file and use model. I believe if we're going to protect our citizens we want to put our resources where they can help them the best, and that is in the examination of the market conduct and how our insurance industry is conducting itself. I would urge you not to vote for the Beutler amendment; to vote no. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Mines, you are next.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Madam President. I, too, stand in opposition to FA3, and I think Senator Redfield has outlined why there's an advantage to the marketplace directing and dictating what products in the insurance categories are brought to market, as well as the pricing. I do think that Senator Beutler offered some compelling arguments for a prior approval, and certainly government can do a good job, and can and should be the...a responsible party in protecting the rights and privileges of those in the public that hire them to do that. The problem is, practically, the Insurance Department has several people that read every single filing that comes into the office. There can be...there can be 1,000 insurance companies file forms. The Insurance Department is not at the pleasure...does not serve at the pleasure of the Legislature. Again, it's an executive branch that is acting as scribes to simply read. They must read every word of every page that comes in. And the department has suggested they'd rather use those personnel in a more efficient way, in...as Senator Redfield described, in regulatory matters as opposed to reading every document that hits their door. This is really the issue, really the part of the bill that I feel is most important--do we let the market determine how our consumers, how our constituents, are served with insurance, or do we rely on government to read every line? And, as I understand, the Insurance Department is inefficient at doing that and this is clearly the direction that we ought to go. So, therefore, I do oppose FA3. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING