

the amendment thereto. In section 5 abortions are permitted when necessary to preserve the life and health of the woman. Then in the amendment as we have stated above the physician is forbidden to employ any procedure which during, before or after would result in terminating the life of the unborn child. Now if abortion as we interpret it in this bill means the termination of the life of the fetus, would the Legislature kindly tell us how we can save both the life of the mother and the life of the child simultaneously. This is one area in this bill which we point out as being completely medically incorrect in terminology. We call this to your attention because it raises a serious medical question which we interpret to mean that the procedure known as saline injection is specifically prohibited. The saline injection procedure is a modern, highly safe and efficient procedure used to terminate pregnancy of a woman under certain medical circumstances. It has been used by the professions for at least 10 years. This elimination of the use of this procedure by the above amendment will force the profession to revert back to a procedure known as hysterotomy which is a surgical procedure involving considerable greater risks, higher mortalities and a longer stay for the patient involved. It is the opinion of the medical profession in the State of Nebraska that physicians involved in this area of practice must be allowed to use the most efficient, safe and effective method in carrying out this procedure. We therefore strongly request the Legislature to strike the above amendment to Section 5 in LB 286 and permit the physician to practice his profession for which he has been trained. We feel there are sufficient safeguards elsewhere in the bill regarding the protection of the fetus. We stand ready to defend our medical judgment on this issue anywhere, any time, should the Legislature so desire. I feel that this legislative body does not have the right to interject our medical views unless we have a medical background training. We are saying to the medical profession, you've taken your training, your many years in school, your years in residency but you're not allowed to make the wisest decision for your client, your patient. This now has been taken out of your hands by the way the current bill is written. Therefore, I move to strike the Anderson amendment in section 5 of LB 286.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter, did you want to be heard on this motion?

SENATOR CARPENTER: I didn't but I'll move the previous question.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter's moving the previous question. Does the chair see 5 hands? Question is, shall the debate now close? All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote no. Motion is for the previous question. Question is, shall the debate now close? Thank you. Clerk will record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 1 nay to close debate.

PRESIDENT: Motion is to close debate. Senator Marsh, you may close on your motion.

SENATOR MARSH: I wish to add only that the medical profession of the State of Nebraska has the responsibility for making the wisest medical decision within the guidelines of this bill we are proposing. Let's not tie their hands so that we are directly responsible for some mother's death.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator DeCamp, do you have a question on order? The debate is closed. All right, the question is, shall the Anderson amendment be stricken, section 5 to LB 286? All those in favor of the Marsh amendment vote aye, all those opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Clerk will record.