

April 14, 1980

LB 1004

mechanism you insure that they may not obtain medical insurance for abortion coverage. Everybody else in the state will be able to find that kind of coverage in their medical insurance packages. They will be able to negotiate for it, but somehow state employees won't be able to not only obtain it through their state coverage package but because it does not exist they will not be able to get it in their private coverages. In other words, to operate...to put LB 1004 into operation without the Fowler amendment simply denies state employees and their families the ability to insure the medical practice of abortion. They won't be able to do it with state money and because coverages don't exist otherwise, they won't be able to do it privately. The purpose and intent of LB 1004 without the Fowler language is to restrict women's ability to get an abortion, and that is an end to which this body should be suspect. The constitutional language and the constitutional intent is clear here. There has to be availability of an abortion for a woman, and without the Fowler language LB 1004 cuts directly to the heart of that because there can be no state insurance and because there are no private plans, there will be no private insurance for these kinds of people and they will not be able to insure against this medical practice and I think that is very unfortunate. Also, one has to realize that if that is the case, if there are no private coverages in these kind of situations, where is Senator Dworak going to turn to for this language that says "this limitation shall not apply to coverage for an abortion which is verified in writing by the attending physician"? I don't think he has explained that that will be available, that he is ready, willing and able on this floor to say that there will be coverage for these kinds of limited coverages for abortions, and certainly without that assurance we shouldn't go forward with 1004 in its present language.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. Speaker, I would call the question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? Okay. Shall debate cease is the question. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. The motion before the House is, shall debate cease? Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 5 nays to cease debate.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Debate is ceased. The Chair recognizes

10071