

of course, that abortion is legal in the State of Nebraska but Roe v. Wade did allow abortions in this country but that doesn't mean that the State of Nebraska is mandated to use public funds to pay for those abortions. Senator Koch, maybe you are not familiar with the Hyde amendment that was passed in the United States Congress that prohibited federal funds from being used for abortions. Well that Hyde amendment has withstood the court challenges that have been thrown at it. It is not required to be consistent with the Constitution of the United States that we use your money and my money to pay for someone else's abortion and that should be made clear. It is not a constitutional mandate. It has restrictions on the use of public funds for abortions have withstood constitutional challenges. There is no reason to use public money for abortions in my opinion and there certainly is no legal basis to say that we must use public funds for abortions and so it is a philosophical issue and so it is a budget issue but it is not a constitutional fight and let me say that I think it is wrong to use your money and my money for someone else's abortion. Now I don't think abortion is a religious issue. I think it is a fundamental right's issue, a right to life issue, but many people in here try to paint it as a religious issue and if that is your opinion, then you should be more inclined to support this bill because we shouldn't be forcing one religious point of view or all of society and forcing tax dollars to support one religious point of view.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute.

SENATOR CULLAN: So I guess I hope you consider those arguments but the one thing I want to make very clear is that restrictions, one thing I want to make very clear is that there is no constitutional mandate that requires that we use public funds for abortions and that is the issue here and I hope that we advance this bill and move on with it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Call the question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed vote no. Record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 4 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Debate has ceased. Okay, Senator Dworak, do you wish to close on the motion to advance?