

SENATOR FOWLER: This amendment is to exclude from LB 125 certain classes or categories of municipalities, school districts and county government. Basically, it is a statement of confidence by those who signed the amendment that our locally elected officials can handle a matter as sensitive and delicate as this without any sort of direction from the Legislature. If there are other Senators who have the belief that they must direct their county commissioners, their school board members and their city council members how to negotiate and how to arrive at what should be in group health insurance, that is up to you. But as Senators from Lancaster County, we are requesting that you allow the local elected officials in this community to be excluded from LB 125. We do not see any need for this legislation to be imposed on our local governments. We have a good deal of confidence and faith in their ability to deal with this issue and we would urge that those of you across the state allow those of us in Lancaster County to get these categories of political subdivisions removed from LB 125.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Good morning, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. Since the Lancaster County delegation feels strongly that this is a local decision, we urge your acceptance of the proposed amendment which simply allows this county, this school district and this city to be excluded from the provisions of LB 125. As Senator Fowler has very clearly stated, we have a great deal of confidence in our local officials and would urge your acceptance of this proposed amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp. The Chair recognizes Senator Cope. Senator Cope. That is all that wish to speak, Senator Fowler. You may close on your amendment.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, as indicated by the signers of this amendment, the Senators from Lancaster County do not want this bill to be imposed on our local elected officials. We ask as a courtesy that you exclude these categories of subdivisions knowing that this Legislature firmly believes in the concept of local control. I would ask that you adopt this amendment.

PRESIDENT: The motion is the adoption of the Fowler, Marsh, Landis amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Just that there be a record vote on this issue.