

under those circumstances it would not jeopardize the low bid which was Blue Cross - Blue Shield. I also wrote a letter at the request of the committee to Blue Cross - Blue Shield inquiring what their policy would be toward any amendment requiring coverage and in their response they indicated they do not offer riders at a high option for this. Secondly, they did not expect to offer such coverage. I also inquired as to the cost of such coverage and I think their position be that the cost would be probably excessive in terms of anyone wanting to purchase it singularly because the whole concept, of course, of group coverage is a broad spectrum of health services that might be provided and this kind of service to be covered under insurance program would have a very limited number of applications, essentially only those who would expect or anticipate to make use of it or the probability of making use of this kind of coverage and since that would be such a small group that even if it was offered that the cost would probably be prohibitive or at least equal to the cost of the service itself. I think that summarizes what the ... the two things that were done on the part of the committee but they did vote to offer the amendment, I think feeling it was in keeping with what had been indicated on the floor in the consideration of another bill, specifically LB 125. I move adoption of the committee amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: On the committee amendment, Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I stand in opposition of the committee amendments. When LB 125 was debated earlier this year Senator Haberman offered an amendment which would have required the insurer to offer individual insurance coverage for abortions. 29 members of this body rejected the policy suggestion. They recognized the bad public policy the amendment suggested. We are forcing the State of Nebraska to intercede on behalf of the right to an abortion is equally as bad. In 1980 the Legislature dealt with LB 1004 which was amended by Senator Dworak and myself to exclude the use of public funds to pay for abortions in the state employees health insurance package. Efforts were made to mandate the individual coverage at that time. Those efforts were rejected. Many of you here today voted to reject that amendment and I think you should remember that position when you vote here on this committee amendment. There is a federal act, the Federal Pregnancy Discrimination Act, which sets standards as to the requirements which employers have with respect to providing insurance coverage for abortion. The only requirements that the employers provide coverage for those abortions which are necessary to prevent the death of the mother and for compli-