

nobody else does. They can corner the market. They can demand any amount that they want and nobody can do anything about it. So the state should not give up the only area where it can do something that would be beneficial to people who are to be served by these types of programs. Senator Lynch had to acknowledge, in response to Senator Johnson's offering of his amendment, that the purpose of the bill is to accomplish what Senator Johnson is trying to prevent. Now had this been a straightforward bill, there would not have been a naked reference to a provision in the federal law which most people would be unfamiliar with. There would have been a statement that the intent of this bill is to stop the state from doing this, that, and the other, whatever the insurance companies here and those supporting this bill other places would want done. So before the state closes forever to itself the possibility of submitting and passing legislation which circumstances make very necessary to be passed, we should think a long time. This amendment that Senator Johnson is offering should be adopted, and I am very strongly in support of it.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Smith, please, and then Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to back up a little bit. I think that, you know we got past the amendment that Senator Lynch was proposing to the amendment to the amendment, and now I am very confused about what the bill originally was intended to do and what we are talking about doing here. So I would like to ask Senator Lynch if he would take about three minutes to summarize what the bill would be like amended with your amendment and the Vard Johnson amendment. And then I would like to have Vard Johnson take the last half of my time to tell me if he interprets it the same way as Senator Lynch is going to tell me. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Chairman and Senator Smith, the State of Washington recently passed legislation that was, in fact, my original bill. It left out provisions as now exist with our amendment to the amendment, with our amendment as it applies to ERISA. The Washington bill simply developed 12 criteria, 7 social and 5 economic, that would be mandated for providers and other people who want to expand their benefits