

behavior on the legislative floor. I do not believe all of you have read LB 895 and the proposed amendment, or perhaps you are not aware that you are trying to tie your own hand or perhaps you really are willing to have your hand tied. It is an issue which is before us today. What action will you take? Are you there to protect your constituents who seem to have needs that are not now being met? I am willing to take that responsibility and I will not support the amendment to 895.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Rod Johnson, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I would move the previous question.

SENATOR CARSTEN: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate will vote aye, those opposed vote no. The question is to cease debate. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Debate has ceased. Senator Lynch, would you like to close on your amendment?

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Chairman and members, I hope that, in fact, what turned out to be a relatively simple 32 lines won't be considered out of proportion to what it really is. In fact, the more I think about it the more I like it. If any of you want to be a consumer advocate for people who need health care programs at an affordable price, this is your best chance at it. If you want to make a statement to send to Congressman Daub or to anybody else in Washington, this is your chance to do it, the best way to do it. Nothing you have even discussed in my debate or those that supported this legislation because we don't intend, never have intended and don't intend to take away any benefits. Nobody can do that unless they have a majority vote on the floor. I remind you once more who are not affected by mandated benefits. Those are the population under Medicare, those who are uninsured, Medicaid population, the population insured through ERISA, those who are federal government employees, the military; those who qualify under federal HMO plans. Consider everybody that is left. And please keep in mind that the problem will not go