

away. In fact, what we do in Nebraska could, in fact, be historic. It could be the kind of a thing that can be done to draw the attention of people across the country, that, in fact, people are suffering because they are not being provided with benefits because a simple way out is to go self-insured. You avoid paying taxes and you avoid having to provide any benefits. So the problem does need federal legislation. But we can't do that here. And the longer we procrastinate by saying, well, let's not...you know, let's not do anything that might be confusing as far as the federal law is concerned. In my opinion, it sort of simply begs out of the question. It doesn't send a message to Washington. It doesn't help those people who need to be covered that have serious problems and are not covered at the present time. Don't burden those 89 percent of the small business people that send in their returns on the ballot to the Nebraska Federation of Independent Business folks who didn't want mandated benefits any more. The only way we can address this problem is to simply do what we do in these simple 32 words, very serious and very important yet simple 32 words, the amendment's lines, I'm sorry, Senator Lamb corrected me, lines. The amendment does, in fact, become the bill. I would hope that you would consider seriously all of the debate today. For those of you that are concerned about losing anything, you won't. For those who want to send a statement, you can do it. I think a lot can be accomplished with this very important legislation and I hope you support the amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: The Chair failed to recognize Senator Hoagland when he had asked to speak on the bill. Senator Hoagland, with the Chair's apology, Senator Lynch has now closed and if you want to give...all right, you were on the amendment? Or on the bill, not on the amendment?

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, sir.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Okay, then I am all right. Anything further, Senator Lynch?

SENATOR LYNCH: No, sir. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CARSTEN: The question is, shall the Lynch amendment be adopted? All those in favor will vote aye, those opposed will vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.