

SENATOR CARSTEN: Okay, you have heard the motion on the amendment. Is there further debate on that? Senator Chambers, you were next on the list. Do you want to speak on the amendment? Any further...Senator Lynch, you didn't have your light on. Is that your opening and closing, Senator DeCamp? Then the motion is to adopt the amendment that Senator DeCamp has proposed. All those in favor will vote aye, those opposed will vote no. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: The DeCamp amendment has been adopted. Now, Senator Chambers, on the bill.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I know this bill is going to pass, but I am still opposed to it. And I want to say that I think it is a poor method of legislating to indicate that should a different type of coverage than exists now be necessary to be mandated by the Legislature, the current bill, if it becomes law, could be repealed with as many votes as it would take to mandate an insurance coverage. First of all, to offer a bill, we all know what is entailed. You go through the hearing; you go through the floor process, then it has to be signed by the Governor. And unless it has an emergency clause, it takes effect 90 days after we adjourn. So if there were a mandated coverage that the insurance company or industry did not want, it might not be possible to get enough votes to get it with the emergency clause so you couldn't repeal the existing law in a given session and during that same session pass the mandated coverage. So that argument that they gave was not one given in sincerity. Now, I believe they sincerely offered it, but not as a way to get around this bill should it become law so that a needed coverage could be mandated. No matter what Senator Lynch or others say, this bill is not designed for the consumer. I was just talking to a group of ladies who were up in the balcony and the issue of how Blue Cross-Blue Shield deals with state employees came up and the coverage that the State Patrol has was mentioned because that is deemed to be the best. And there are young troopers who may have to go to the hospital, or a member of the family, for some reason, and their claim is denied the first time. Some