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10/3/03
Date

2003 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1247

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1247

House Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 21, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		48.3 - 60.8
1		x	0.3 - 61.6
2	x		0.0 - 25.8
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Sharon Ruffin</i>			

Rep. Niemeier appeared as prime sponsor in support with written testimony and proposed amendments.

Rep. Porter requested list of drugs and devices used by men that were not covered by insurance to make the claim of discrimination, Rep. Niemeier did not have.

Rep. Gulleson appeared in support with written testimony.

Rep. Porter stated that this bill is telling me I don't have a choice anymore and how she related contraceptives as health care.

John Lindgren, ACLU appeared in support and gave the organizations views on government and religion.

Rep. Porter had concerns with mandating and small businesses and stated that this bill takes away the option of small businesses being able to choose between these types of coverage's and what they can afford as businesses.

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House Human Services Committee
Bill/Resolution Number HB 1247
Hearing Date January 21, 2003

Rep. Price stated this may cause employers to stop providing insurance altogether because of that reason.

Rep. Pollert noted concerns with the government dictating what he should have to do even if its against his religion.

Wanda Rose, ND Assoc. of University of Women (NDAUW) appeared in support with written testimony.

Rep. Price asked for a definition of emergency contraceptives. Answer: A contraception that would be provided within a short period of time (24 to 75 hrs) after sexual intercourse.

Rep. Porter commented that 75% of these pregnancies resulted in live birth and 9% of those pregnancies resulted in abortions, where are the other 16%? Answer: The other 16% would be where the child was not born alive or there was a spontaneous abortions.

Rep. Porter: So 16% is a statistical factor of miscarriages? Answer: yes

Janelle Moos, Bismarck citizen appeared in support with written testimony.

Bob Scarlet, OBGYN, appeared in support stating he's pro-choice, pro-life and pro-contraceptive and states the issue of fairness and feels this is prevention of diseases by using contraceptives.

Penni Weston appeared on her own behalf and in support of the bill.

Dr. Scarlet was asked to appear and define emergency contraceptives. Answer: something used to prevent conception (morning after pill) used in emergency only.

Sparb Collins, Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) appeared neutral on the bill with written testimony and proposed an amendment.

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House Human Services Committee

Bill/Resolution Number HB 1247

Hearing Date January 21, 2003

Tim Lindgren, ND Life League appeared in opposition of the bill with written testimony, stating employers are being or will be forced to pay for something that may be against their religion and that some contraception's may actually cause cancer.

Rod St. Aubyn of BCBS appeared in opposition with written testimony stating that premiums have now just gone up and this will up it again. He also noted that they would support an amendment on striking out the mandate.

Christina Kendall of ND Family Life appeared in opposition stating that many people are going to have a problem with being mandated to pay for something they either don't use or believe in.

Christopher Dodson, ND Catholic Conference appeared in opposition as the bill is written.

Stated 3 things that haven't been pointed out: 1) No definition in this bill regarding emergency contraception; In ND group policies cannot cover abortions; 2) With regard to contraception, emergency contraception and fertility treatment, there needs to be true conscience protection for those employees that have morally subjection's; 3) HMO's

Closed the hearing.

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1349 & HB 1247

House Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 28, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2		x	47.6 - 57.4
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Sharon Reuzman</i>			

Minutes: Committee Work

Rep. Potter asked what determines a mandate? Answer: anything that adds a service to a service.

Rep. Devlin moves the mandate on those 2 bills (HB 1247 & HB 1349), seconded by Rep. Weisz.

Rep. Porter asked what this is going to cost us? Answer: essentially \$5,000.00 per bill.

Vote on motion: 12 - 1 - 1

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1247
House Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 5, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		32.1 - 48.6
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Sharon Rowland</i>			

Minutes: Committee Work

Rep. Niemeier stated she feels its a big need in our state and had additional amendment she handed out.

Basically it puts waiver in for organizations with immoral and states if there are less unwanted babies, less maternity care, etc. and moves the amendment 0201, second by Rep. Potter which removes Section 3. 10 - 3 - 0 Passed

Rep. Niemeier moves the amendment 0202, second by Rep. Potter

Rep. Porter states its unfair to exclude religious organizations when you are jamming something down the throats of small businesses.

STATEMENT: Catholic conference employers/employees are exempt from this.

Rep. Weisz noted that we are exempting a religious organization but not a small business who would be forced paying and not given the choice.

Vote: 4 - 9 - 0 Failed

