

May 3, 1989

LB 769

SENATOR LABEDZ: Gets her out of the home.

SENATOR SMITH: What if there was really nothing wrong in the home, what kind of a havoc can we create in homes where a little girl is in terrible trouble with her life...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...and she doesn't know where to turn so she goes...she finally goes to the doctor. When she goes to the doctor, he tells her...you know, asks if she has been neglected, abused or whatever all these words are here. She said, yes, she was. Now, all of a sudden, she can have an abortion, it's perfectly all right, but the authorities are going to remove her from the home and what do you think is going to happen in a family where this wasn't even true?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Then that would have to be proven in court.

SENATOR SMITH: And you don't care. You don't care what you do to a family?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Not if the abuse and the sexual abuse...

SENATOR SMITH: Were true.

SENATOR LABEDZ: ...is eliminated.

SENATOR SMITH: If it were true, that's the point. In all cases this can't...this may not be the fact. That's my concern. All right, now you say that she can get the abortion by this process. I pointed out some concerns that I had in this bill yesterday and I...I am in a real dilemma here I...I am angry at being placed in this position with this bill. Who could stand on this floor as a parent and say, I don't support the fact that my child...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired.

SENATOR SMITH: ...should notify me if they want an abortion. I'm for that. As I said, I'm opposed to abortion but, as a lawmaker, don't I have the responsibility to look past my own personal convictions and say, if this is a bad piece of legislation, it's going to create all kinds of other problems? Supporters of your bill have told you that it's going to.