

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, I haven't spoken for a while and I guess maybe my turn for a little bit. March 21, 1990, I just picked this up out of the paper, Abortion Counseling Ban Rejected By The Appeals Court in Boston. Department of Health and Human Services regulations barring the use of public funds for abortion counseling or referral services are unconstitutional. A federal Appeals Court ruled on an opinion made public Tuesday. A three to one decision. The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals declared the regulations, while for the most part permissible, under public health service law they were drafted and are, in fact, unconstitutional. The regulations which involve family planning funds and the so-called Title X program were announced in 1988 by the Reagan administration but were promptly enjoined by a U.S. District Court in Boston. The restrictions forbid any counseling about abortion by recipients of family planning and require such recipients to direct pregnant women only to facilities that care for the health of the unborn. Opponents of the regulation contend such facilities skew the information provided to thousands of women, mostly who have low incomes and many whom are teenagers, depending on federal finance family planning centers for counselling and advice, contraception, family planning and abortion. David Koh! (phonetic) of the Center for Constitutional Rights said indeed it is a major victory and particular victory for the rights of people concerned with low income and teenagers, and that's where I'm coming from now. State laws right now that are being considered in nearly every state suggest that required counselling provisions and waiting periods, that women make such judgments frivolous are a disgrace. I just cannot see how that we can continually put our priorities on forcing that very young, very innocent girl carrying a baby to term and going through delivering a baby and putting that over and above about everything else. I just...it blows my mind. One mother said, and if some day and my daughter should find herself pregnant and unfit or unwilling to have a child of her own, I refuse to allow my country to treat her like a criminal. Today on the issues of choice it's time for us to either choose or lose it. On the legal system is on the verge of committing, as it said, one of the grossest invasion of privacy I've ever been personally subjected to, it may be about to dictate one of the most intimate decisions I have ever or will ever have to make. It's about to make me and every other woman the chattel of the state