

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 2, 2004 LB 172

doing any and everything it could do to frustrate any type of legislation passing. I was...early in this session, I was approached by admittedly a pro-choice group who indicated they had concepts they wanted discussed on the floor of the Legislature. They wondered if I would be willing, because I'm Chair of the Education Committee, to introduce an amendment that deals with the education process, the role that schools can play in this, and I said, sure, it sounds like a good idea. I'd be interested in seeing if there is an interest in the body to address the provisions that you are thinking need to be addressed, and I took the amendment that they gave me and asked my staff to redraft it. They did, and I filed it. I introduced it. What is the concept I'm dealing with? It is the concept of how are young people that are affected by this bill going to find out that there has been a bill passed by the Legislature that affects them. And then, I think I read this to you before, he goes on to say: It may shock you that there are very few 16-year-olds out there that subscribe to the Unicameral Update, very few of them that get the Revised Statutes of the state of Nebraska mailed out to them. How are these young people going to find out? The suggestion was that the people in the schools take on the function of notifying them of what this law is all about. I introduced an amendment. I got a lot of phone calls, as I indicated before, saying all Senator Withem is trying to turn this procedure into an...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...advertisement for the judicial bypass procedure. Certainly, it was not my intent. And then he goes on to say how he went back, looked at the amendment; decided, indeed, maybe that's the way it could be interpreted. He changed the wording of his amendment and had it...and had it redrafted and took out all the specific references to telling them about where the judge is, telling them how to go about applying for judicial bypass procedure, and what the amendment simply was, to tell them what the law said, very clear, very precise. And I think his remarks can resonate just as well in this body today as it did 12 years, 13 years ago. Because I do think we get polarized on the issue and then nothing to improve the bill can be done to it, and I'd like to ask you to