

that they are going to have an abortion must travel to the major urban areas in our state where abortions are performed, and when they get to these major urban areas of the state they discuss the situation with a physician and the physician concurs that the choice is a good choice. The woman then signs the informed consent statement. She does not sign it though until such time as a physician has told her again, again, the problems that may be inherent in an abortion, the values of childbirth, the values of rearing a child, the methodologies for having a born child placed for an adoption. Following that kind of a dialogue she signs the informed consent statement. Now the physician turns to her, this woman who has come from Scottsbluff, or from Alliance, or from Neligh, or from some other place, to Lincoln or to Omaha and says simply, ma'am, you are going to have to wait two days. Under the Nebraska law you have to wait two days. Now the woman has already gone through a tremendous amount of soul searching as to whether to have the procedure, and she has made the decision to have the procedure but she must now wait two days. What does a woman do who comes in from outstate Nebraska? Does she stay at the Clayton House? Does she stay at the Hilton and wait her two days, or does she get back on the bus and go home and probably let more than two days go by because she has to scrape up the bus fare again to come back and have the job done? We are laying an enormous burden on women who frankly have made this choice for themselves by preventing the woman from exercising her own judgment to have the forty-eight hour waiting period waived. As a matter of sound policy we ought not to have a forty-eight hour waiting period. I personally believe that virtually every woman who faces the hard question of a continued pregnancy or an abortion knows her mind at the time she walks into the clinic. The better policy is not to have a forty-eight hour waiting period at all, however, as many of my fellow Senators, our fellow Senators have pointed out, we are accepting a compromise and the compromise is simply to retain the forty-eight hour waiting period but to permit the woman as well as the physician to waive that forty-eight hour waiting period when it appears that the woman's mental health or physical health would be jeopardized by that continued wait.

SENATOR NICHOL: You have one minute left.

SENATOR JOHNSON: I ask you, not just for constitutional reasons, but also for policy reasons to support this amendment. It makes good sense. It is the right thing for this body to do.