

how definite people's feelings seem to be on the floor of the Legislature and in our society. It seems like we have become so dichotomized, the pro-lifers, pro-life, right down the line. The pro-choice people pro-choice right down the line. Well for myself I would have to honestly say I really can't buy either position right down the line and when you get to the middle questions, the hard questions, it rips me up and I think it rips most people up in this society. There are hard, hard choices. One thing that I am not able to say, I am just not able to say that a woman who has been raped should be forced to bear the child. You know one of the fundamental concepts of fairness that we have in this society is that unless a person is to blame somehow, unless they are at fault, they should not be forced to bear consequences, especially serious consequences which are not of their own doing and which can be avoided. In any area of our law that you look at we look to fault and I think that in this circumstance I, personally, just cannot see where a woman should be forced to have the child. You know, we have done so much in this Legislature over the last year since society has been asking us to do so much with regard to stopping crime, with regard to making it tougher on criminals, with regard to doing everything we can to put an end to the rising criminal trends and we have reacted. We have been doing things in this Legislature to try to alleviate the problem and yet in a sense when we talk about rape, it seems to me that the state is almost perpetuating the crime, accepting the consequence of crime and saying that the victim of the crime who we have gone to great lengths to try to repair in terms of a Victims' Reparations Act and acts such as this and saying that the victim of the crime has to day after day for nine months suffer from the crime and in the end bear a child that was caused by a criminal act, and that to me, is just not acceptable. I would ask you to vote for the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: We have seven names down who want to speak.

SENATOR LABEDZ: I think, Senator Beutler, you are a little off base on your amendment. The bill itself does not state that any woman can have or cannot have an abortion. Abortion as we all know is legal because of the Supreme Court decision. The bill here simply states do we or don't we use public funds to pay for abortion coverage by insurance companies. The fact that your testimony was centered mostly on, in fact, all of it was on whether or not she should or could not have an abortion.