

will file this case as next friend for the minor. Secondly, under our own law, we don't have, under Nebraska procedural rules, we don't have what I am going to call a "Jane Doe" practice and a Jane Doe practice is a way of actually designating yourself in the petition anonymously so that no member of the public can read who it was who is filing the petition. It has got to be filed by Vard Johnson for himself so my name is a public name. Now I happen to know that because I have had a couple of occasions to attempt to bring cases into district court in Douglas County on behalf of minors who wanted their identity not to be known to the public and I had to work and sweat and work to find out some possible way of getting the job done and it was seriously questioned by the judge when it was done though it was done. But we have not changed the law to allow anonymous filings in court. Secondly, virtually all court processes that we engage in in the district court are adversarial processes, and by that I mean simply when you file a petition in court, you are suing somebody and so you have to notify the other side and some five or six weeks later the other side has to file an answer to the case. Now under the Labeledz amendment, the amendment says you file a petition and the judge must respond to the petition in twenty-four hours. Well, who is the defendant to the petition? Who is to come before the court to argue the other point of view that this particular individual is immature? The law is silent on that, the amendment is silent on that point. The court process that is set up to in a sense sift out the mature minor from the immature minor is extremely sketchy. At this juncture, I don't think it is particularly workable. It doesn't protect confidentiality and, frankly, it is just a real problem. So it seems to me that we are much better off if we set a bright line, if we in this body say simply that persons who are not yet adults in terms of having come of age legally but yet reflect maturity, if we set a certain age standard as our own judgment regarding maturity, and I think what Senator Marsh has done in saying that a person who is above the age of sixteen, if you are seventeen or you are eighteen, you are still a minor, but if you are seventeen or you are eighteen you are mature enough to make the decision.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your time is up.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: You don't have to go to court to get the court clearance on the decision. To me that is an appropriate method to go and for that reason I do support Senator Marsh's amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Pirsch. Okay, the question has been called for. Do I see five hands? Okay, those in favor of