

for me to offer. I had a few phone calls over the weekend about it. I feel very comfortable with it. I would hope that you would support it. I think it would make a bill that deals with life even more realistic and, most importantly, fair

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the Lynch amendment. Senator Abboud. Senator Ashford, followed by Senator Landis.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Just briefly, Mr. Speaker, members, I hadn't planned to speak on this amendment but...and quite frankly, I hadn't read it until just now and I should have read it beforehand. Over the weekend I tried to read most all of the cases involving this issue that have come down since Roe v. Wade, and I do intend to, after a long period of struggle in my own mind on whether or not this was the kind of public policy that would have a positive effect, decided to support the bill. I think one of the problems that I had in looking at the bill and looking at what it was trying to accomplish is, are we really going to create the dialogue that is necessary to create informed consent. One of the findings or holdings in Roe v. Wade concerned the idea of informed consent, that the case, basically, says you all know that a woman has the right to choose, make a choice on whether or not to have an abortion as long as she is informed medically or appropriately medically as to the consequences of her decision, and that particular part of Roe v. Wade was cited by the Eighth Circuit in its decision upholding the parental notification bill in Minnesota, and in that holding in Minnesota, the court went through the findings of the lower court, and the findings of the lower court had basically been to the effect that the judicial bypass portion of the bill, that part of the bill which allows a minor to go to court and seek redress so that she would not have to provide the notification, in the bill was a cumbersome procedure in that it, in many cases, didn't really work effectively. It didn't create the kind of dialogue that we all...that the proponents of the bill had hoped it would in Minnesota. And the problem here is trying to find an appropriate way of creating that dialogue. The court system is not set up to do it, and I think that is what the judge in Minnesota was saying is that the court system really isn't set up yet. We don't have the judges who are skilled in this area who have the time to deal with these cases effectively, and, quite frankly, in talking to people from the pro-life side of this issue that the court system in Minnesota had really become a rubber stamp for these young minors who came before the court system. So I think it is an imperfect system