

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. President, members, thank you for allowing the indulgence of this debate to go on. I appreciate the fact that the question hasn't been called. I do appreciate the fact that many of you have heard what you need to hear, but sometimes, as Senator Chambers says, you have to speak for the record, and I presume I am going to be doing that now. I am going to support the bracket motion. I don't know about the rest of my colleagues on the floor but I can say, unequivocally, in my district there is no issue that is more important to my constituents, at least vocally, than this issue, the pro-life, pro-choice, parental consent, parental notification. There is no issue that is more divisive in my district than this, and it comes down pretty heavy on the pro-life side, and I have been accused before of being called not pro-life by...in a past election, and that is not true. I have no doubt in my mind that, if I don't vote for 769, I will be accused again of being called pro-abortion. It probably would lead to my demise as far as reelection, if I so choose, up next year. I have four daughters and a wife that are all good Catholics. We have discussed this issue at length. I have a 14-year old and a 15-year old right now. We have discussed this in the last three weeks at length. I have talked to them about the compassion or lack thereof of this bill, and they have all said to me, it is a good idea that parents be notified, they'd come to us. And I think it is a good idea, too, because the issue on 769 is a very simple argument, shouldn't parents of 13-, 14-, 12-year old kids have the right to be informed of whether their daughter is going to have an abortion and, obviously, the answer is yes. If it happened in my family just that way and we would be there, if it happened in your families, if it happened in your friends, my friends, but as Senator Chambers and many others have said, this is not a perfect world, and all families out there aren't like yours and mine, and this bill doesn't have compassion for that population, that small population, hopefully, very small, where the young girl of 13 or 14, that could be my daughter or yours, feels like they have no choice. They don't have a choice, if they find themselves in this unfortunate situation, that they can't go to a judicial review because they have never even heard of a judge or judicial review. They can't go home to their dad because their dad is not there or their dad is going to be so horrified they just can't face that. They can't go to their parents because the mother is living with somebody who is the abuser and is too timid to speak out against it because she is lonely and afraid of losing her friend. So what do they have to