

May 3, 1989

LB 769

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. LB 769 has been debated over and over again, at least on two or three days and I am hopeful today that LB 769 will advance to Select File so I will be very brief in my remarks. But I do want to...Senator Ashford was reading some judges' quotes from the lower court yesterday. I want to read you what the higher court said on the Hodgson v. State of Minnesota and that's the Eighth Circuit Court. In their decision, they say, "Any added burden the two-parent notification requirement imposes in an individual case is negated by the judicial bypass mechanism which enables a mature or best interest minor to go directly to court without consulting or notifying both the parents." They go on to say in Bellotti a plurality of the court indicated that the requirement of obtaining both parents' consent when an alternative judicial bypass is in place does not unconstitutionally burden a minor's abortion rights. Let me explain just briefly what the bill does. It's a protection of the minor from her own imprudent decision. It's a protection of the family as a viable unit in society and a protection of parental rights of authority over their minor children and it's a protection of the minor's health by enabling parents to supply essential medical information to the physician performing the abortion and allow parents to ensure that their daughter receives appropriate follow-up medical care. And I did mention, on a different day, on the complaints that I had on young ladies that had abortions without their parental notice and I have to stress again many of the senators that were questioning LB 769 kept saying "parental consent". This is not a parental consent bill. It's parental notification. This law will tremendously benefit all the parties involved. It will benefit those parents who are notified and it will benefit those teens who obtain support and advice from their parents and those teens who want to avoid pregnancy. In addition, the integrity of the family unit, and that is probably the most important, is upheld. I ask that you advance this bill to E & R Initial.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the motion to advance the bill, Senator Nelson, followed by Senator Chambers. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I know this bill is going to advance. I'm really sorry, in a way that it was ever brought before the body but that's each senator's discretion to bring what bills they care to in front of the