

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to finish up on one point and I want to thank Senator Smith for letting me continue on that train of thought with Senator Chambers. My one point, as was discussed with Senator Lindsay and others, is that regardless of the interpretation of the statute that Senator Chambers is trying to delete, whether it's the child that needs to declare or whether it's the physician that needs to declare, and I will agree it is vague. But either one makes no difference to me in this case because whichever one makes the declaration, whoever declares that abuse has occurred, the point is the way the bill is written there is no delay factor. There is no period of time that says the abortion cannot take place until an investigation occurs to see if the child has been lying or what have you and I understand why they would not want to put in a delay factor, because that would clearly have some constitutional problems of setting up some burdens and what have you. I understand that. But to not put in a delay factor because of constitutional problems and to continue on with the charade, and it really is a charade, of saying that if you declare, that's going to make people be more honest and that's going to...what's going to help on child abuse and what have you, it is not, because once you declare, you can get the abortion, period, with no questions asked, with no questions asked. Even if they find out that it was a lie, I'm intrigued mentally and philosophically to try to project what would happen. We have now had an abortion that has taken place and if Roe v. Wade is totally overturned, I think that would be a fascinating case on what you could do to a doctor or a child who had an illegal abortion if this could be the case because of a lie, but the law allowed her to do it. It's absurd to have that type of provision in the bill. It does not hurt the bill to take it out. It does not help the bill to keep it in. And it certainly is a section that I think those, again, I always get concerned about those of us on an issue so hard that we just don't want to change anything. We want to keep it the way it is because if we start changing, the floodgates open. I understand that. But I hope that those...the people that are so pro 769, no case can be made...that will be made will seriously look at this amendment. I know Senator Chambers made many of you angry with his attacks on the Catholic church. I know many of you were angered by some of the other things Senator Chambers said. I know that. But I hope the body is also mature enough to overcome that, to look at what he is actually saying with the amendment because, I will be honest with you, if under the