

differences of opinion on this very basic issue, and have felt that despite my religious beliefs and personal beliefs, that impeding those fundamental principles that others feel as deeply as I do is wrong, and so as Senator Hannibal stood up and talked about his family and what it has done in his situation, I can tell you in my own it is very difficult as well. I think to proceed further on this legislation will continue to split individuals apart, families apart, this Legislature apart, and the state apart, and as this very issue is being debated here, we are discussing back in Washington this matter on Roe v. Wade, and if the decision is as some people suspect, that the whole issue will be sent back to the states, overturned, and allowed to again be debated, you will see a division in this state and in this country as we have never seen before since probably the days of prohibition, and it will bring us chaos and political hardship and heartache in a way that I think we are only starting to suspect from the discussion on this bill. I have before stood and talked about my beliefs very rarely, and I don't know if I will again on this bill, but I was inspired, frankly, by Senator Hannibal yesterday because he talked about the political risk he was taking in taking the vote that he was making and, frankly, I said, courage begets courage, and if Senator Hannibal could maintain his convictions and speak out and do what he did, I felt I could despite the difficult task it is, and there are others of us in similar circumstances. Any of us that are parents know what it is to look at this circumstance and want to have your children talk to you when they have a situation like this, they feel they need an abortion. First off, you'd hope you have that conversation and discussion far ahead of time and never reach that point as a parent, and my two daughters are a long way away from being in that circumstance, but I think about that and I anticipate that and I hope I can be in a situation where I never have to face that circumstance where one of them is in need of that awful option. But at the same time as we talk about trying to think through how this would actually work as a parent and want to have your child communicate with you, you have to look at it from the other side of the child involved, and these are children. They are minors, they are children, and they have got themselves in a situation they don't know how to get out of and, hopefully, they can talk to their parents, hopefully, most of them will have that communication, but some of them won't. And it is in those rare cases and, hopefully, hopefully, very rare cases that you have to understand you can't place in front of these children the sort of barriers that this bill would place, and it is because