

Lynch. Senator Nelson. Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you. First of all, I want to commend Senator Ashford. We did have a discussion during the lunch hour on his concerns of LB 769. And I want to remind the body that this is the fifth day of discussion on LB 769. If you recall, in the Journal, this identical amendment to LB 769 was printed and it was submitted by myself. In the meantime, because of all the other amendments, I withdrew the amendment, because at the same time I did have some concerns about the one parent, and I discussed it with Senator Ashford, as I said, during the noon hour. My one concern was that, and I will take my family, for instance, I was raising three daughters. And it is very difficult, when your daughter comes up to you and says, Mom, I'm sorry I came in at two o'clock this morning, but don't tell Dad. So I had to make up my mind whether or not I was going to tell Dad that his daughter came in at two o'clock in the morning when she should have been in at ten o'clock. It's not easy for two people, when they're parents of three daughters, to not discuss problems with one another. I had the same thought, in a situation such as this, when a young girl will notify the mother, and in my case I must tell you that it wasn't because they were afraid of abuse from their father, I think... I often told them I thought they loved and respected their father more than they did me because they never wanted to hurt their father by telling him that they came in at two o'clock in the morning and possibly had a few beers. And that happens in every family, so I'm not confessing to anything that is wrong. I'm sure these young people sitting in front sometimes do the same thing, that they would rather tell dad than mother, because it would hurt mother, or vice versa. And it does put a burden on one parent when they tell either the father or the mother, or notify the father or the mother that there is going to be an abortion, and then that parent has to carry that burden the rest of her life or his life that the daughter had an abortion without the father or the mother knowing about it. But knowing it is a great concern on many other senators on the floor, notifying both parents, I agreed to this amendment. I will be supporting it, but I did feel that I had to tell you there are some concerns that I had on family unity when you only tell one parent, and then it's up to the one parent to decide whether she will carry that, what I call secret, the rest of her life, or the rest of her married life, or if she will finally, at some point in time, tell her spouse, her or his spouse. So I will support the amendment, even though I have some misgivings, because I know