

May 4, 1989

LB 769

case of, again I'm thinking of divorce or separated families, sometimes, in fact many times the wife will have custody of the child, the husband does not get custody,...

SENATOR ASHFORD: Right.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...however the husband still has not lost his right of being a parent.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Sure.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: If we go to your amendment, in most cases I suspect the parent that would be the custodial one may be the one that would be informed.

SENATOR ASHFORD: It could be, but unless a parent's...quite frankly, in my opinion, unless a parent's parental rights are terminated, and you're right, a custodial parent is just the custodial parent. The other parent may have rights of visitation, may be paying child support, may have equal access with visitation to that child half the time. I mean I don't think we can generalize, but each case is different. So it would not necessarily be the custodial parent, nor do I think it necessarily should be, because I think we're centering on the minor now. We're centering on what would make it easier for her to give the notice rather than not notify at all, that's the problem I'm centering on. I know Senator Labeledz is concerned about the relationship between the two parents. I fall down on the minor child and what she's going through in her mind at that time, and encouraging notification so that possibly she will not have to go through the judicial bypass and may select not to have the abortion, if that be her choice. But...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, thank you, Senator Ashford. That's all I have, Mr. President. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, please, followed by Senator Ashford and Senator Smith.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I've not engaged in much of the debate on this bill. And I listened with a considerable amount of interest attempting to become enlightened. And I have heard most of the attorneys in this body and Senator Chambers, who could be an attorney if he wanted to be, who is legally trained, who has spoken somewhat