

May 4, 1989

LB 769

if we don't adopt that amendment that it's either...if the minor child is not going to die if the abortion is not performed, but if the minor is going to be gravely ill, that the abortion cannot be...that's not enough of an emergency?

SENATOR LINDSAY: That goes to the second problem in my argument that I spoke to on the amendment which is, if the girl is gravely ill, the parents are going to be there to have to consent to the medical attention anyway.

SENATOR ASHFORD: But, John, what if there isn't time to consult with the parent? I mean you've got a 48-hour notice provision, you've got a minor child in there who is gravely ill who may not die in the 48-hour period, but who could be damaged for life. How under any possible code of civility or morality could we deny that person that surgical procedure?

SENATOR LINDSAY: We're not talking about the 48 hours. Like I say, if they are going to be able notify if somebody is gravely ill, they are going to be able to notify the parents or the guardian well within the 48 hours.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Why should the parent even have to get involved with a gravely ill minor?

SENATOR LINDSAY: I think the question answers itself. We require it.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Well, but wait a second. We've got a situation...well...I just...to me if you've got a gravely ill minor who the procedure must be performed, it may not result in death but it could result in some permanent damage, we're saying that that is not an exception to this bill? I mean, that's law now. It's constitutional and it is law. I mean, how can we reject that under any possible code of anything how could we reject that? I mean, I know there's...I understand your argument about health being psychiatric potentially and so forth and so on, but we've got to be able to do something about that. We can't just reject it and say death.

SENATOR LINDSAY: The situation that you've described is not the situation that this...that the amendment dealt with. The amendment dealt with the broad term health. If there is limited language, then that certainly can be considered.