

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I will oppose the reconsideration and the rule suspension. It's unfortunate that, in fact, we are reconsidering if, in fact, that's what the body chooses to do, the rule suspension. What the rule suspension means is that the level of debate has become a little too hot for the proponents. They're not able to answer the questions that are asked them and they want to move on. They want to face the discussion that this body has quite legitimately raised, the technical issues that have been raised, how this is to be implied and to answer some of the legal difficulties that this concept has had elsewhere and to justify the bill itself. For myself, however, this bill does not represent an intricate legal problem. It represents a review of whether or not we should have a right to privacy that is constitutionally grounded, whether or not there is a place that government should not be free to go in people's lives, a zone around them in their marital life, in their choice of contraceptives, in the personal trauma of an unwanted pregnancy and the like, a place where the law, as an instrument of policy, is far too blunt to attend to the very careful weighings of human sympathies and miseries that are involved in this kind of an issue. The proponents of 769 says it's a bill about notification. I have said it's not true. It's actually a bill meant to stop abortions which is what the proponents want to do. Carson Rogers had, I think, the temerity and the clarity to own up to that fact. So far, he is the only one when he was here saying, I think this will stop abortions, that's why I'm supporting it. Fair enough. I understand that argument. It, by the way, is what's at the heart of what was passed out to you today from the Right To Life group. The Right To Life group only in the very end talks about the role of parents in notification. What the rest of the handout describes for you is the fact that this will stop abortions, it will make them less likely, which is the flip-side of the argument as to whether this constitutes harassment or not. Whether it's harassment or whether it's going to stop abortions, the question in that choice isn't notification, isn't the role of parents, isn't good family relationships, it's whether or not the law should tell people what they can do in their private life or not. Some people say, yes; some people say, no. For myself, I have decided that the law is not an appropriate instrument for these weighings and that, in fact, this bill is a mask for a larger, deeper and, by the way, much more committed message than what