

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, two things, first, I don't have a good excuse. I just simply want to apologize. I was in an audience in front of the university. By the way, this issue was not brought up and it is a mistake and Senator Rogers is incorrect given that he assigns that statement with respect to this issue. I did make the statements before the Government Liaison Committee of the University. I did say them. They were mistaken. I apologize. I did not make them with respect to this issue, and if you are attempting to tie that to this issue, that wasn't said, and that is not true. It is a mistake for me to say that and I apologize. I did that without reference to any single issue and that was not related to this issue, but I apologize and I shouldn't do that. Secondly, with respect to this issue, I have made a statement and that is that the electorate should be making decisions based on what we do, and I certainly have been reminded of that forcefully by my own constituents and by other groups in opposition to my own philosophy. I find myself simply mirroring rhetoric that I have experienced in the 12 years I have been here. Now with respect to the issue of 769 and family violence, what is clear before the Judiciary Committee, and perhaps Senator Langford has read, perhaps she hasn't read the testimony before the Judiciary Committee, I invite you to take a look at it. It is clear that the Judiciary Committee had evidence before that says there are about 25 percent of pregnant kids that come from dysfunctional families or who have excellent reasons not to want to take the information about pregnancy or abortion back to their family. They also had evidence that, for among that group of people, there was evidence that information about pregnancy and information about the fact that the young girl was pregnant was not only a source of great emotional trauma but, in some cases, violence as well. Now you may place whatever significance you wish on that score. The evidence is without refutation in the committee. The evidence goes without comment by the opposition, for the most part, and certainly without any claim that it is not factually true. I find that which is factually true relevant to 769 and to issues before us. I find that you can place whatever weight you want to on it but there is an irrefutable body of evidence before this Legislature's Judiciary Committee that information brought to a dysfunctional family about a teenage girl's pregnancy is the source for physical retribution, and if that is factually untrue, I'd like to have the evidence to support it. That is what our Judiciary Committee information seems to develop and that is why I think