

Senator, this is your amendment, strikes "forty-eight" and inserts "twenty-four". (See AM1735 on page 2149 of the Legislative Journal, First Session.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, this is an amendment I introduced last year to bring LB 769 into conformity with current law. As you know, we have a law on parental notification and that law requires that there be 24-hour notice given to the parents prior to the abortion being performed. I brought this amendment for two reasons, or actually three reasons. Also, none of these amendments came from any organization. I noticed there were a series of red votes automatically went up. Apparently, there is just generally going to be opposition. There is really no point in me discussing this, I guess, because there is automatically going to be 15 or 16 or 17 votes, so...but I will try anyway. These amendments, the first one and this one, were brought about for three reasons. One, current law, current Nebraska law requires that there be a 24-hour notification period for parents to be consulted or to be notified of an abortion, and this 24-hour period is consistent with I believe a bill which was introduced by Senator Lindsay which requires a 24-hour period prior to an abortion being performed, any abortion being performed, I believe is what Senator Lindsay's bill calls for. Okay, so that is the first reason it is, it is consistent with current law. Secondly, it is consistent with I think the general idea that we make this law as less onerous as possible on all of the parties involved. If you believe that parents can be notified in 24 hours, I think it is certainly an amendment that should be passed. Obviously, in all of the debates that we have had on this issue, the time factor is an important issue. In all of the courts that have dealt with...the appellate courts that have dealt with the abortion issue always talk in terms of time. Is the law that is passed too onerous? Does it require too long a period of time prior to an abortion being performed? And in many cases where laws have been struck, abortion laws have been struck down by appellate courts, there has been a concern by the appellate court that the time involved between the decision to have an abortion and the abortion, itself, was too great. What is...going back just a moment to the judicial bypass issue and the time issue, not only do we...if we maintain 48 hours, that is two days, you have got a situation potentially where you could have a 48-hour waiting period. The court's decision, if