

limits. So I think we are accomplishing, again, by adopting the 24-hour period, we are consistent with current law. We are consistent with Senator Lindsay's bill that he has introduced on 24-hour notice. We are also removing one of the concerns of the appellate court and the district court in the Hodgson case and, quite frankly, we are, I think, getting at the essence of the problem here, and that is the protection of the young girl who is going through this very traumatic time. So with that, I would ask the adoption of my amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Landis, please.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I support the Ashford amendment. One of the things you have to keep in mind here is that the physical dangers of both of the tracks of abortion and of child birth go up as the time goes on, as the clock runs. It becomes a more traumatic experience in either situation, although it is clear that the greater risk is, in fact, going through the childbirth option. The teenager's health and well-being is far more significantly at risk in that option than the abortion one, but, in both cases as the clock runs, the chance for physical misfortune and for side effects, for complications to occur, increases. The entire process of 769 meant in a number of cases in Massachusetts and in Minnesota extensions of the time from which the person wants to get an abortion from the time a person actually gets the abortion from two to three weeks to make that decision because the process has taken that amount of time to run. What the state has done then is to impose this special mechanism from people who want to do and exercise control over themselves and their own medical treatment, but the law has interposed a two or three-week period or interregnum between there and, during that period of time, the risk to that individual has gone up. The process that you have imposed to promote your own moral beliefs and values has, because of the delay and the time taken to use it, has increased the danger to the individual who wants to act on their own personal beliefs as to what is good for them and their decisions as to what they think is appropriate for their reproductive freedom. Senator Ashford's amendment makes an attempt to collapse that period of time. It has a significant purpose. That purpose is these decisions, whether they are to abort or to decide to have the child, need to be made as early as possible to ensure the maximum opportunity for health regardless of which option you choose, and Senator Ashford's amendment does that. It is the same time frame that Senator Lindsay has in his bill,