

why the notification of one parent I think was certainly an appropriate amendment, that is why the affidavit provision I think was an appropriate amendment, and certainly was appropriate enough to be passed by this Legislature several years ago when we adopted parental notification in the first place. And the 24-hour provision is somewhat the same sort of idea, that when we impose into law restrictions in this area that we be very, very cautious and very concerned about the minor child and that that should be the central core of our debate. The issue of the abortion, itself, whether it is right or wrong, is an issue that each of us must decide for his or herself. None of us getting up here are going to convince any of us whether it is right or wrong to have an abortion. We have made that decision already; or whether or not it should be the individual woman's choice to make that decision, that decision has been made by all of us already. What we are about now, as we try to pass legislation or as it looks as if we will pass legislation in this area, and Senator Smith's amendment I think is consistent with that idea, that we not necessarily simply pass a law just because some other state did, but we take the experiences from that state and those states and we adopt or adapt those experiences to what we are doing here in Nebraska, because I think we really are, in many ways, a more reflective body than some of the other Legislatures that have looked at this issue. I can't, for the life of me, understand, and I never will, why we did not adopt Senator Lynch's education provision.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: It is just beyond me that we would do that if what we are really getting at is the issue of informed understanding by a minor. The whole reason for parental notification, in my...at least my understanding of it, is that minors and their parents and, if not their parents, their guardians have a free discussion about the issue so that the decisions that that minor makes is a decision which comes about after reflection and consideration of the issues. Why information about that decision should be withheld is beyond me, and as long as we are passing laws in this area, it would be one thing if we weren't trying to get involved in this issue as a Legislature, but once we cross that threshold and decide to become involved in the issue of abortion,...

PRESIDENT: Time.