

First of all, the trial took place from February 10, 1986 until March 13, 1986, more than a month. And during that time of approximately a month the court, in Minnesota, heard testimony from several judges, several psychiatrists and counselors who had worked with the parental notification law since 1981. It's the only...it's the only document that I know of that really is a recitation of how this law works and doesn't work. And I invite you to please read it. Now I proposed three amendments to this bill. The first amendment, Senator Labedz agreed to, and that was the amendment that changed the bill from a two-parent notification to a one-parent notification. The reason I proposed that amendment was because the Minnesota court said that the two-parent notification under all of the evidence presented was so onerous as to be...as just to be ridiculous and needed to be changed, and Senator Labedz agreed and changed that. The two other amendments that I have proposed come directly from the Hodgson case. The first amendment changes the notice from 48 hours to 24 hours, a notice, parental notice. The second amendment expedites the judicial bypass portion of the proceeding. The reason I proposed those three amendments and the two that have not passed, and the other...the two did not...on Tuesday were defeated, was because of the Hodgson case and what was said in the Hodgson case. Let me refer to that for a moment. Referring to the 24-hour or 48-hour question, this statutorily imposed delay frequently is compounded and this is based on all of the evidence that was presented at this case. This is the judge's decision based on all of the evidence that was presented. This statutorily imposed delay frequently is compounded by scheduling factors, such as clinic hours, transportation requirements, weather, a minor's school and work commitments and sometimes a single parent family's work and other commitments. In many cases, the effective length of the delay may reach a week or more. Delay of any length in performing an abortion increases the statistical risk of mortality and morbidity. The increase in risk becomes statistically significant when the length of delay reaches one week. Moreover, even delays of less than one week may push a woman into the second trimester. Second trimester procedures entail significantly greater cost, inconvenience and risk, risk. This is evidence at the trial that was brought...this is not just somebody's thinking, this is evidence, direct evidence. Let's talk about the judicial bypass for a second.

PRESIDENT: One minute.