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LB 662

simple as that. It is a controversial issue, and it could spark some debate. But I think for those of us who have this strong feeling about this issue that we should be looking at the possibility of not allowing something like this to go into the legislation. So I'm sorry, but I'm going to support Senator Labeledz's amendment here. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. There are no other lights on. Senator Labeledz, would you like to close, please.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President, yes. I was trying to listen to Senator Scofield and everything she has to say. But I do want you to know, Senator Scofield, LB 662 is a good bill. I voted for it on General File and intend to vote for it, if the amendment is adopted. You mentioned something very quickly that it would prohibit a counselor from talking to or counseling adult men or women. From the very beginning I thought LB 662 was drafted and passed on General File because it was your intent and my intent that it would be simply for children. And one of the questions I was going to ask you was, there is nothing in the bill that defines children. Is it teenagers? Is it infants? Maybe you could answer that question now. I thought the bill was drafted for children and families and had nothing to do, and you say nothing in the bill about teenagers or adult members. Can you answer that question for me? Wasn't this bill intended strictly...

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Yes, I can, Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: ...for children and families?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Yes, yes, it is. But I have to make the...the point I made was it's impossible to counsel a child outside the circle of his or her family. And as a counselor you inevitably, if you're effective, visit with the parents on occasion. You certainly wouldn't want to exclude the parents from that discussion.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Absolutely not, that's why I want a notification bill.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: And you and I agree on that. And so I'm just saying you have to recognize that the counselor will not see that child as an isolated entity. This bill is, in fact, designed to deal with children and families. It could deal with