

an opinion will dictate sometimes what the answer would be. And so the argument went that the Attorney General's Opinion on the Labeledz amendment shouldn't really be counted because it was worded so slantedly that the opinion isn't worth anything on the real bill. But, on the other hand, I look and I see a bill that has an Attorney General's Opinion that might have an effect on the entire bill. What the body traditionally does on something like this is we're saying the following, hey, look, we attached an amendment to make some people feel good. The amendment could cause some problems to the bill and the bill covers a wide range of things that have nothing to do with abortions. The bill covers a thing that when you apply to the grant that the community must show acceptance and I would think if the community application had something to do with abortion for some reason, which I doubt it would, the community would be involved in that decision-making process. Senator Lindsay then comes with us and says, you know, we could have a severability clause which the body could say, listen, if, in fact, there is a problem, what we have all professed to support, the concept of 662, if there is a problem, it could jeopardize that concept which all of us say that we support. So Senator Smith would simply put an amendment on that says if there is a problem, we dare not sacrifice all of the positive things because of a little bit of paranoia, and that's exactly what would happen. We're possibly jeopardizing the entire concept with children, based on a small amount of paranoia. Senator Lindsay then comes up before us and says...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...I don't think we should do that because some of us are so paranoid on that side that we might vote against passage of the bill and sacrifice all the things that it could do for children because of that small area we have a concern. I have never heard such narrow-mindedness in a long time. What Senator Smith is asking the body to do, whether you're pro-life or pro-choice or in the middle, is reasonable. Senator Smith is saying we have an amendment attached that makes Senator Labeledz and others feel very good. Senator Lindsay argued and other people argued yesterday that they felt the Attorney General Opinion had no constitutional problems. If that's the case, then they should have no problems with the severability clause, none whatsoever. They argued on the floor that there is no problem, in their opinion, on the Attorney General's Opinion...