

was the case. First, judges found parental notification procedurally flawed. Secondly, lawyers and guardian ad litem found the law to be substantially unworkable. And, third, social service professionals called parental notification a complete disaster in the face of any attempts to unify families. Let me refer to some of the remarks that Ms. Johnson made. Court backlogs in an already clogged judicial system make this provision of judicial bypass, part of the Parental Notification Act, a nightmare if not an impossibility. In Minnesota, in spite of similar requirements that were eventually carried out by only three judges in the state, the consequence was that the judicial work load routinely delayed abortion procedures making them more dangerous for the young woman. Minnesota's experience was that abortion procedures were delayed about three weeks, moving many first trimester abortions to the second trimester. Ninety-one percent of abortions occur in the first trimester, the safest time for this procedure to be done. As time goes on, it becomes, as does childbirth itself, more dangerous. The law simply forced young women to having more dangerous operations performed. Second trimester abortions rose by 26 percent and those are more dangerous procedures, much, much less dangerous than childbirth, but nonetheless, more dangerous than that which the law would originally have permitted them to have. Judge Donald also found no positive effect to the law. See, the second major reason why this concept is without merit is that it is substantially unworkable. For example, there is a claim made in the amendment by Senator Labeledz that this is to be a confidential matter. People working in Minnesota find that it's not confidential. In fact, the bill requires that a minor's petition to use the judicial bypass while being confidential, ignores the realities of the court system. First of all, you have to get in front of a judge before you can file...I'm sorry, to get before a judge, you have to file a petition. That has to go into the Clerk's office so you begin to have people involved there. A bailiff sets an appointment either on the judge's calendar or on the dockets. There is somebody else as well. There is a court reporter to record the testimony, there's a third. And you're going to have to have orders from the judge one way or the other. This is additional bookkeeping. In Minnesota it was not unusual to have 23 strangers learn of a minor's pregnancy as they wound their way through the courthouse in search of the judicial bypass. That is not confidentiality. Another concern of the lawyers and guardian ad litem about notification concerned the absent parent. There, two parents are required and up to 30 percent of the time when they used