

the books. I guess I would like to further try to explain why I have opposed this particular bill, although I would like to preface my remarks by saying that the last thing I would want any daughter of mine to do, if I had a daughter, would be to have an abortion without my knowledge. I would be terribly heartbroken and I guess I would realize that the relationship was not all that I hoped and wanted it to be. But having said that, and wishing that for every parent and every child who ever has to face the situation, wishing that there were communication, I'd like to explain to you why I don't think it can be legislated. The real goal of parental consent and notification laws is really to discourage abortion or prevent it altogether. These laws are not typically introduced by medical groups, family therapists, family physicians, youth advocates defense funds, young women's organizations, groups fighting the abuse of children, or other organizations traditionally concerned with helping teenagers and their families. All such laws passed in the last 13 years have been drafted by anti-choice groups which have as their primary goal ending all abortions. For example, in Minnesota, the only group that publicly expressed an interest in the parental notification legislation was Minnesota's Choice Coalition, which took the position that lives...I am sorry, Minnesota's Citizen Concern for Life, which took the position that lives could be saved if such a bill were to be passed. This is true in other states which have passed mandatory parental involvement laws as well. Furthermore, parental consent or notification laws are frequently introduced as part of omnibus antiabortion statutes designed to restrict or completely prohibit abortions. In contrast, major professional medical and social services groups have opposed these laws and taken the position that confidentiality must be assured to pregnant teenagers.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Some antiabortion groups have made it explicit that enhanced parental involvement is not their primary goal in advocating for these laws. For example, please listen closely, for example, where parents encourage minors to have an abortion, one so-called Right to Life group recommends "waiting it out". In other words, counselling young women not to tell their parents that they are pregnant until it is too late to get an abortion. And there is more that I would like to add to that but my time is nearly up, and I would just simply reiterate and suggest to you that communication and notification is not really