

could do the same if they'd stop begging, stop pleading and begin to utilize that voting power. We wouldn't even have to have these kind of discussions on the floor of the Legislature anymore and in all seriousness...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I'd like to point out what I think are several problems in the provisions of LB 769. One of the problem is that this is premised on the notion that there will be access to the courts, that there will be a judicial bypass available to the young girls of Nebraska. Courts are not readily available in all communities and that results in unequal access and serious delays. As a matter of fact, in Minnesota a great many rural judges recused themselves and would not hear these kinds of issues. Ultimately, most of the teenage girls in Minnesota had to come to St. Paul, Minneapolis or Duluth. There were only three judges out of the state who would hear these cases. So the access to the courts is one difficulty of this measure. Secondly, this measure says that there are to be expedited appeals to the Supreme Court, but accessibility to the Supreme Court is also a problem. For numerous minors, such appeals will create additional delays, the bill will require major changes in the way that the high court performs its current task, should this measure be passed. Third, the bill is vague on whether or not a physician must have a return receipt upon filing a notice prior to performing an abortion. If so, a minor's abortion could be delayed for two weeks or more or prohibited altogether if, in fact, you have to wait for the return of mail. The return of mail is oftentimes defeated by people who are not present, people who are gone or traveling, on vacation, have changed addresses, Any of those kinds of things would create a difficulty to return the receipt of mail. Without it, the young girls opportunity for giving effective notice would be delayed. The more delay, the more health dangers she has. Fourth, this judicial bypass operation contemplates appearing before a judge. On the other hand, how many of us at the age of 17 would know how to have handled ourselves in that circumstance, known how to fill out a legal form, known how to have drafted a legal petition? Will counsel be available to minors to assist them in performing this difficult and legal operation to get into a court, make sure that the appropriate information is presented to the court? The bill does nothing to appropriate funds for the expense of counsel particularly for indigent young women,