

to mine and that is what the process is supposed to be about...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and that is the way we conduct our business.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Landis, please.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, members of the Legislature. LB 769 is a measure that discriminates and has a couple of special ways in which it does discriminate that might not come immediately to mind. First, it discriminates against disadvantaged teens and, secondly, against rural teens. Why? Because such laws create a class system in which only certain teenagers have access to courts. First, there is no guarantee of assistance with the cost. Secondly, there is no assistance with the respect to the sophistication of the teenager as far as being provided any help with respect to filling out the petitions which would be necessary to gain access to the court. And another facet of the same question, the Minnesota experience shows that fear and accessibility, delay and lack of resources place bypass procedures out of the reach of some minors. Here I think is why the proponents of LB 769 continue to fight because there are some teens who do not have the means of using the judicial bypass and who are forced to go back to the situations where they tell their parents or simply run away and carry the fetus to term, giving birth to a child. Minors from abusive and dysfunctional families are most likely to find the bypass option out of reach. So this proffered opportunity for surmounting the difficulty of notice, this method is usable by the people who don't need it, but is inaccessible to the people who most need it. Secrecy rules in such families. It is the given practice and it is the most punished of the sins of an abusive family, to tell. What does judicial bypass do? It tells. In the event you want some kind of a notification or a way around the bill, you have to allege sexual or physical abuse, and those kinds of things ultimately get reported, or you have to go into court and make these kinds of claims. In Minnesota, 89 percent of the minors who went through the court bypass procedure, the three years that it was operating, was 16 or 17 years of age. In other words, the overwhelming age of the teenagers who use this was at the very furthest reaches, 16 and 17. All were white, middle class, well-dressed, well-educated. Who did not use the judicial bypass? Kids from backgrounds that were not as