

Senator Labeledz, would you light up, please, I mean your light. Thank you. Still looking for Senator Scofield. Senator Scofield is on her way, I understand, and there she is. Senator Haberman. My understanding is Senator Haberman is slowly coming up the stairs, he should be here momentarily. Okay, the question is, shall the body be adjourned until nine o'clock Monday morning. You wish a roll call vote and, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See pages 1767-68 of the Legislative Journal.) 15 ayes, 25 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. Senator Schimek, you are the next speaker, followed by Senator Morrissey and Senator Labeledz. Senator Schimek, you are the next speaker, please.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body. I would like to talk a little bit about notification and the effects on the family and the minor's psychological development. Most parents love their children, but even loving parents are not perfect and have problems relating to their children and other loved ones. For example, communication between parents and their adolescents about sexuality and related matters is often characterized by severe discomfort on both sides and, surprisingly perhaps, it is often entirely absent from the parent-child relationship. Upon finding that such communication is frequently absent and uncomfortable with parents, but more common between adolescents and their peers, one researcher noted the following: Although parents, particularly mothers, have traditionally been viewed as the most appropriate persons to inform children about sex, the present findings cause us to question this assumption. More than one-third of the mothers indicated they did not find it easy to discuss sex with their children. If this is the case, why burden them with a task they find difficult and, as a result, avoid. Further, attempts at such communication, particularly when involuntary, may lead to complex and dysfunctional responses including violence. For example, experts testifying in the trial in Minnesota indicated that parents often react to an adolescent's questions or disclosures about sex by interrogating the minor or by invoking their information system or their value system or, even worse, their control over the decision-making process. Thus, attempts to discuss sexuality can quickly become a transaction between an individual and an authority figure rather than a set of people looking at a problem area in an effort to communicate, understand, and