

takes a judicial agenda in some courts, a legislative agenda in other states. Part of that agenda has been the public relations agenda. Perhaps you've seen or heard of "The Silent Scream", which is a very powerful and very effective motion picture that's been played in a number of locations in which the advocates and individuals in the film claim that there is, in the uterus, a silent scream by the fetus when faced with the prospect of abortion but that is unheard, and it's up to all of us to hear that. Just as there are inaccuracies and difficulties with the information in a wide variety of other areas, so too is there a number of mistakes in that front, that sort of mind-setting informational public relations front. For example, among the things which are commonly claimed by opponents of abortion and adherence to the position of restriction, like LB 769, is that a 12-week fetus experiences pain. That's certainly one of the teachings of the "The Silent Scream", in fact, at this stage the brain and nervous system are in such an early stage of development there is no sensation of pain. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists state, we know of no legitimate scientific information that supports the statement that a fetus experiences pain early in pregnancy. We do know that the cerebellum attains its final configuration in the seventh month, and that myelinization, or that's the covering of the spinal cord, and the brain begins between the 20th and 40th weeks of pregnancy. These, as well as other neurological developments, would have to be in place for the fetus to perceive pain. To feel pain a fetus needs neuro-transmitted hormones; in animals these complex chemicals develop in the last third of gestation. We know of no evidence that humans are different. If, in fact, there is any time at which an abortion should occur, if one is concerned about the status of the fetus, it should be in that first 20-week period when our obstetrics college tells us that the biological imperatives for any sensation of pain are not present. What is the effect of LB 769? Well, in some cases it's probably to take some fetuses to term and the birth of children, that probably occurs in a number of circumstances. The number is perhaps 9 percent or less of the cases. In other cases, it means that kids cross state lines, in others it means that they have parental notification and obtain an abortion, or they get a judicial bypass. But both the notification and the bypass create delay. What is the effect of the delay? To increase risk to the mother, to increase risk to her health and her mental well-being, but also to run the abortion which this child is determined to have, and has the support of a parent to do so