

car. They may or may not be able to afford that motel or hotel room, and that there has really been no proof that she has changed or will change her mind. I might remind you that that consent can be given before she reaches the abortion clinic, too, by her home doctor. The other section attempts to extend the state's interest in ensuring informed consent beyond permissible limits. It intrudes upon the discretion of the pregnant woman's physician. While a state may require a physician to make certain that his patient understands the physical and emotional implications of having an abortion, this goes far beyond merely describing the general subject matter relevant to informed consent. By insisting upon recitation of a lengthy and inflexible list of information, this section unreasonably has placed obstacles in the path of physicians. I won't bore you with a lot more time, there are a lot of senators to speak on this. When you speak of the majority or the minority, the polls will say that only 7 percent of the Midwesterners believe in a strict pro-life stand on abortion. I think there is a middle ground, 39 percent pro-choice. But what I'm thinking about is the 65 percent or the middle, that there...there is some ground and there is a common sense in this issue. I don't believe, and no one else wants to have the government intrude and to tell us what you're going to do or what you're not going to do, and we, as Nebraskans, don't. This will be subject to a court case, similar as Iowa and Guam, and that's exactly what will happen in this case. I think of the abortion bills, I really think this bill, excepting I have a little problem with the...forcing the waiting period, I see it isn't going to accomplish anything, is probably the better of any of the bills. It is no longer possible to realistically...that the issues raised by abortion laws involve abortion alone. They raise the fundamental questions of how far can a state control a physician. The doctor and the patient relationships are usually the...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR NELSON: ...same, and the state should seldom be permitted to interfere with their joint decisions to perform standard medical procedures. And that's what we're asking to do in this particular bill. In the Roe v. Wade, the court declared that it is the decision that vindicates the right of the physician to administer medical treatment according to his professional judgment. Up until this point the compelling state interests justify intervention. And we could go on and on.