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LB 854

Another court case, the one method the legislators have tried to use, and they're doing it here, is to control the doctor-patient decision-making process in the area of an abortion, and that has been to rule to interfere with the ability of doctors to freely communicate with their patients. Rules have been created that either require physicians to...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR NELSON: ...make specific statements...Did you say time?

PRESIDENT: Yes, ma'am.

SENATOR NELSON: ...silence them altogether, and that again is against the patient and doctor relationship.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator McFarland, please, followed by Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President. A couple comments. I appreciated what Senator Bernard-Stevens had to say. It is an emotional issue. And I appreciated some of the comments about there being a middle ground. I think it's important to look at the bill that is being considered for bracketing. The bill itself is fairly simple and it adds to a statute that is already on the books with regard to abortion, but adds two provisions. The first provision that it adds is to require an informed consent. In subsection (8) of the bill, on page 3, if you want to take a look at it, there are already requirements in the law about the information that has to be provided. First, part A, it says (1) you have to notify of possible alternatives to abortion; (b) you have to be notified of the abortion procedures to be used; and (c) notified of the particular risks associated with the abortion procedures. Those are already within the statutes, those are already law under the State of Nebraska. This bill adds a third one, and that being notification of the anatomical and physiological characteristics of the unborn child at the gestational point of development. So that is a fairly simple change and a fairly modest one. The second part of that, it has to be...the informed consent has to be a written statement of informed consent, which the...bearing the signature of the person upon whom the abortion is to be performed. That's the first part, the informed consent. The second thing is that no abortion shall be performed until 24