

SENATOR LABEDZ: Call the question.

PRESIDENT: Question has been called. Do I see...Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: (Reply inaudible.)

PRESIDENT: There have been two on one side and one on the other. I believe we'll let it proceed a little bit further. Senator Bernard-Stevens, please.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I'll yield my time to Senator Chambers.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator McFarland finally got into the bill itself, and he gave a pretty accurate accounting of what the bill says in terms of the new material. But before I get into that and consider it, I want to read something that's already in this bill. And when it was enacted, it was designed to be restrictive as far as a woman obtaining an abortion by defining informed consent in such a way that it would place a burden on her ability to make a choice. So this would be on page 3, starting with line 11. And this is current law. Speaking of informed consent, informed consent shall mean a written statement voluntarily entered into by the person upon whom an abortion is to be performed whereby she specifically consents to such abortion. Such consent shall be deemed to be an informed consent only if it affirmatively appears in the written statement that the person upon whom the abortion is to be performed has been advised, and then it gives several subsections. And in subsection (e), or subparagraph (e), it says, that there are agencies and services available for prevention of future unintended pregnancies. Now, that relates to contraception. But we've had amendments offered to other bills that are designed to provide counseling and instruction to young people and others in need of it, which would specifically say that nothing could be mentioned with reference to contraception. Yet we have here...or birth control of any kind. We have here in an existing statute, which is designed to be restrictive on abortion, the requirement that in the consent form the woman be told that there are services and agencies