

didn't give it on General File. He has never made the opening speech of an introducer, which I'd love to hear. With respect to the question that Senator...and that, by the way, should not either be a very good prospect. Neither of those should be satisfactory. The question that Senator McFarland just raised, which was the story that he read, is...cannot happen in Nebraska without a violation of our medical malpractice law, because it is already in our law that there needs to be a discussion of possible alternatives to abortion, the discussion of the abortion procedures to be used, of the particular risks associated with the abortion procedures to be employed in that case, and that there are agencies and services available for the prevention of future unintended pregnancies. In other words, our existing law would not let the story that Senator McFarland just read on the floor happen in this state without a violation of the Medical Malpractice Act or standards of this state. In fact, what does happen in this state? Well, this is from the Women's Medical Center of Nebraska, which does, in fact, abortion counseling and services. This is the counseling pattern they go through because, unlike the story that Senator McFarland read to you, this is what happens in Nebraska. There are two sessions. In the first session, it's a private session between the patient and the counselor. The counselor asks questions in order to discern whether the patient is sure of her choice. The patient is asked to describe the circumstances which led to her decision and whether she had considered all options, including adoption and parenting. The counselor helps the patient assess the presence of resources that might support her, such as family members or significant others who might assist her as a single parent. Counselors ask the patient whether she is aware of community resources, such as social service agencies. Patients are then allowed to ask questions and are answered about fetal development and printed material is available to the patient who requests additional information on that subject. All counselors are trained to note patient ambivalence and, if so, to illicit responses which would indicate the patient's feeling toward her choice. If there is indecision, they are informed that they need more time to consider their options. It is suggested that they go home. The role of the counselor is to support and encourage such patients to reconsider their choice and each day two or three patients are encouraged to reconsider. If, in fact, they do, the patient's fee is refunded. The patient is escorted from the clinic. Many return. Some do not and continue through their pregnancy. Following that first session, which is the normal