

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support the motion to reconsider the previous vote and the reason that I do is because I feel that this discussion is needed, that we have to have some way of talking about this issue and this seems to be the only way to do it. You know, I'd like to refer back to some things that Sandy Scofield said on the floor earlier tonight and I thought she was very articulate and she probably expressed what a great many women feel about this issue. Senator McFarland, earlier this evening, said that most people support a waiting period. Well, first of all, most people aren't affected by the waiting period, Senator McFarland, because about half the population of the United States are male. If you ask the women who are faced with unwanted pregnancies, they do not make these decisions about abortion lightly or alone. And I'm not wanting to sound sexist about what I'm saying. I'm just... I'm just trying to state the facts. Almost all women having an abortion say they have more than one reason for wanting the procedure. On average, women give four different reasons for wanting to terminate their pregnancy. A 1981 study found that 88 percent of the women who came to several abortion clinics in Tennessee said they had consulted at least one person before coming to the clinic. Now I don't know of any such study that's been done in Nebraska so I can't quote figures from a study in Nebraska, but I would guess that it would be reasonable to speculate there might be some correlation. Forty-two percent of the women said they had consulted their partner, 35 percent said they had consulted a close friend, and 17 percent that they had talked with their mother, and 2 percent said they had talked with a minister or guidance counselor. Very few women, in other words, went to an abortion clinic without having agonized over their decision, and I do believe that what Senator Scofield said earlier, that we mustn't presume that women cannot make these kinds of decisions. It's very personal, it's very private and it is very intrusive for government to involve itself in these kinds of decisions. I said on the floor before and I'll say it again, I don't think government should be involved in this decision nor, nor would I support government funding, Senator Chambers, and I'm sorry to say, but I would not support government funding for abortions because I don't believe this is an area that government should be involved in. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Labeledz, please. Question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate now close? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on ceasing debate.