

they sought an abortion to try and avoid an abortion. The other thing I would like to clarify, I don't advocate abortions. I don't like them. I am supportive of choice. So being supportive of choice, I want a knowledgeable and fully informed, as much as possible, young person to have that choice. There are several avenues, looking at counseling, all the way from an ordained pastor to a psychiatrist, trying to consider that in my area there are a lot of small towns and a lot of services are not available, and want to be able to make counseling as accessible and monetarily feasible as possible. So I look at this amendment as something in perhaps western Nebraska more than a state, and that I want to see counseling happen. I have worked locally to try and secure a full-time adoption counseling, am still doing that with Lutheran Family Services. I have, besides raising my own family, have had two teenage foster daughters, and we have faced unwanted pregnancies in with my foster daughters and several other people I have known, and I generally feel that counseling is the best route to go and would urge the body to accept this amendment to 425.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Labeledz, on the amendment.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to oppose the Rasmussen-Hillman amendment, and I do want everyone of the co-sponsors of LB 425 to carefully read the amendment, because what it does, at the very beginning, it strikes everything, every section in LB 425. It leaves nothing in there on 425. It proposes to amend LB 425 by striking all the requirements of parental notification and inserting the requirement that prior to the performance of an abortion upon a minor, a physician or counselor shall provide pregnancy information and counseling in a manner and language that will be understood by the minor. The amendment is not a substitute for parental notification. The parental notification requirements contained in LB 425 is designed to protect minors by enhancing the potential for parental consultation concerning a decision that could have a traumatic and permanent consequence for the rest of their lives. The justification for parental notification rests in the special relationship of the parents and child. The custody care and care of the parents ought to play a very substantial part of their lives, if not the dominant role. This amendment supposes to proceed all parental authority because some parents abuse and neglect their children. This debate does not have to be framed as a conflict between parents and children. A pregnant parental