

April 8, 1991

LB 425

courts decide otherwise, it will continue to be. The restricting the minor's ability to have her ears pierced will not have the long-term ramifications of pregnancy, childbirth, and premature parenthood. The state recognizes that some areas of medical care are so serious and private that we treat them differently. State statute specifically allows a minor...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...to consent to treatment for venereal disease. State law does not require parental involvement before a minor can choose to carry a pregnancy to term, receive prenatal care, or relinquish a child for adoption. A minor can, by her own consent, go through pregnancy and childbirth and undergo a caesarean section without parental consent or notification. Proponents of this bill have claimed that if a minor experiences medical complications from an abortion, her parents are liable for expenses. Consequently, they have a right to know about the abortion. The fact is state statute specifically exempts parents from legal obligations to pay such expenses if they were not involved in the abortion decision. LB 425, as written, may be constitutional but it runs counter to fundamental principles...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...about the privacy of family decision making. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Next speaker is Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, sometimes as we grow older we grow more forgetful of what it meant to be young, and the types of things we engaged in that we did not want our parents to be aware of when it wasn't as serious as a matter such as abortion. I'd like to ask Senator Lindsay a question or two. Senator Lindsay.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Lindsay, would you respond, please?

SENATOR LINDSAY: I'll try.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Lindsay, do you concede that there are families in Nebraska where if a girl were to be pregnant and