

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, I want to reiterate what I said in the opening. The purpose of offering this amendment is a genuine concern about the well-being of young people faced with difficult situations. And I see little or nothing in LB 425, the way it is written presently, that does offer that kind of support for young people. There is certainly nothing in the judicial bypass that offers support and help in making a good decision. That is simply a judgment of whether or not a person is competent to make that decision. There is little or nothing in the literature about young people to suggest that passing this law will make them tell their parents, when they would not have told their parents before this law was passed. My concern is that this is a serious decision and we ought to offer up a system that offers some means for young people to think seriously and thoughtfully and make a good decision, and that whenever possible, they should involve their parents. But if they can't, in those families that do have serious dysfunction, that there would be some other kind of support system available for them and that they would not be left on their own. I would urge you to give thoughtful consideration to this amendment. I think it is good social policy. Many of you know that I am a parent of two teenage daughters, and if I thought I could pass a law that would make them tell me everything in their lives, part of me would want that to happen, but on the other hand as somebody who studies human development and family relations as a profession, part of growing up is moving away from parents and part of that is the very difficult process for parents to accept, and that is that young people begin to make decisions on their own. It is our hope that what we can do is help them make the best possible decisions, and I would submit that the approach that we are offering through the counseling approach, as opposed to mandated notification and judicial bypass systems, is much more caring and supportive of our young people. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. You have heard the closing on the amendment. We will now proceed to vote on the amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk. A record vote has been requested.

CLERK: (Record vote read. See pages 1567-68 of the Legislative Journal.) 13 ayes, 25 nays, Mr. President, on the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: The amendment fails. Before we proceed to the