

know not many of you have read it, you just listen to what's come in via telephone calls. "On or before October 1 of each school year, each school district shall provide written information to all students in grades seven through twelve explaining the provisions of Section 2 of this act with regard to the requirements for parental notification as a condition for obtaining an abortion." This is probably the heart of the amendment. If you believe, as I think the proponents of 425 do, that the existence of a requirement for notifying parents prior to receiving an abortion, if you believe that that will result in fewer unwanted pregnancies, somehow these young ladies have to know that this provision exists. That is what this portion of the amendment does. It says that the schools will tell the young woman, if you get pregnant, you are not going to be able to go down to the abortion...local abortion clinic and get an abortion without your parents knowing about it. You are going to have to notify them. They are going to have to be notified. The second thing we have to tell them is Sections 3 and 4 of this act, which do, in fact, talk about the judicial waiver process for parental notification. So the schools will say, in addition to that, if you have got a situation at home, you aren't comfortable with that, you can go in front of a judge, make your case in front of a judge, but you are going to have to make your case to one body or the other. You are going to have to make your case to the judge, or you are going to have to make your case to the parents. You are no longer going to be able to seek an abortion without notification of somebody. That is all that this amendment says. Why the schools? Because that is where the kids are, as I have indicated. If somebody has a better idea of where else, who else could perform this system of notification of what this law says, I'd be perfectly willing to accept an amendment to an amendment as long as it is reasonable, but I think the burden is on us, as a Legislature, to provide some sort of notification to these young people that we passed a law that affects them. That is what this amendment does. I'd urge your support of it, or if you are not going to support it, come back with a suggestion of where else this system of notification could take place.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. We will go to the next speaker, Senator Chambers, on the Withem amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I support Senator Withem's amendment. Most people don't know what the law is. Most people don't know what the law says.