

functions necessary for the care and development of the child. Parenting functions shall include maintain a loving, stable, consistent and nurturing relationship with the child." It says nothing about the grandparent, the sister, the brother, the aunt, the uncle, the stepparent, the nineteen years of age or older or guardian. It is strictly the functions of a parent and I thought every member of the Legislature should know that Senator Brad Ashford, Senator Rasmussen, Senator Chizek and Senator Will are the introducers of LB 728. It's a good bill. I'm going to support it. I don't know if it's even on the floor but it's a good bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Labedz. Senator Horgan. Senator Horgan, you're next.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just comment to Senator Bernard-Stevens that I think we do view this bill differently. He views it as a bill to stop young people from having abortions. I view it as a bill that talks about family values, family life, family communication, parental rights and communication between young people and their parents and I think we come at it from a different angle. I think there are those who come at it and say that this bill is, indeed, an attempt by government to stop young people from having an abortion and to stop young people from being able to have that freedom of choice. I think some of us or most of us on the other side believe that this bill is an attempt to say that government doesn't have a right to take away a parent's inalienable right to be involved in the upbringing of their children and that until they become of majority, they have a right, parents have a right to be involved in the lives of their children. How can we be expected to raise good and responsible children if the government takes away our right to be involved in their lives? And I think it is a basic, philosophical difference that we come from, different viewpoints on this issue and I think it's important to recognize that the state should not, again, the state should not be involved in telling parents what they have the right to do and what they don't have the right to do in overseeing the raising of their children. It seems to me a fundamental question and we have problems with too many teenage pregnancies. We have problems with sexual abuse and we have all kinds of problems, but for the government to come in and to say that a parent should not be involved in this type of decision, does not need to be informed, seems to me to go to the very structure of American family life, and I think it's not right,