

April 8, 1991

LB 425

and I think LB 425 addresses that problem and we ought to support that and oppose attempts to water the bill down or to get around its major intent. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Horgan. Go to Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the amendment. In looking at...how I'm looking at it is family and how families do work and the extended family is just as important as the parents are. The aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters are very important in the raising of a child. I would also ask the body consider some of the religious and cultural backgrounds that we're dealing with, and I would use two personal examples. One was a young lady of Hispanic background who formally worked for me. She was not a minor, but she had had two children, had not been married, both with the same man and was pregnant with the third. She was no longer going to be living with the young man and needed someone just to talk to. She could not go home and visit with her mother about any subject that dealt with abortion. She could go home with her third illegitimate child, but she could not talk about any alternatives. The other one I would like to have you consider are Native Americans. And Native Americans, the aunts and uncles are who you notify, who you contact at schools if there are problems with children. So we have some, I think, cultural and religious backgrounds that really look at the extended family being a part of some of these decisions. Also, I would remind the body that you have already addressed two bills so far that you passed that deal with mediation and you seem to think that was a good idea and I would say this is only another form of mediation. I would approve the passage of this amendment.

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

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: I rise in support of this amendment. To say...Senator Bernard-Stevens said it very well. As I watch young people and because my daughters are teenagers, I have seen a good many young children, and oftentimes when they're faced with this situation, they don't go directly to a parent but they go to somebody else, either a friend or another family member. And it is going to another family member, it is going to another caring adult that often gets them to their parents. And if the true intent here is to help young people face a difficult