

purpose of determining the legal question of who is a mature minor and who is not. In the case the minor is mature, capable of making the judgment on their own, the judicial bypass concludes that they need not inform the parents. In the event that the young person is adjudged immature, the judicial bypass would say, you can't use us, you'll have to consult the parents. What statistically we find in Minnesota is that the courts are almost unanimous in holding that girls of the age of 18, 17 and 16 prove to be mature; not only that, but in those cases, a majority of young women do consult their parents. In fact, the younger you get, the more the consultation occurs naturally, more that without the force of law young girls go to their parents seeking assistance and counseling. I urge you to adopt this amendment so that we may take that body of young females who, were they to use judicial bypass, would be found to be mature and would not necessarily need to use the judicial bypass and simply cut out the problem of going to the judicial bypass for a result which is, for the most part, foreordained. The judicial bypass really has very little factual question to consult in these situations given the Minnesota experience. Why impose the judicial bypass system when the result will be clear? And there is a more compelling reason not to use the judicial bypass system in this situation. By delaying through the rather lengthy process of the judicial bypass to achieve this result, you move the time in which for those young women when they choose an abortion as their option, you move the time when that procedure is used. The later that procedure occurs during a pregnancy, the more dangerous it is for the young woman. Now, there is no time when the procedure is more dangerous than child birth, but it moves from being many, many times less traumatic and dangerous down to about nine times less dangerous than childbirth. But the later in the trimesters, the later in the pregnancy that the procedure occurs, the more danger to the young woman. If, in fact, through the judicial bypass system, these women would be afforded the option to use the procedure anyway, and that's the course of conduct that we know to be clear for Minnesota, why would we impose a public policy obligation to put them in what is statistically undeniably more danger by making them follow a useless process? I urge the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Before we go to the next speaker, I would like to introduce some guests of the Legislature. First, under the north balcony we have two guests of Senator Schmit. We have John and Helen Ptacek. Would you