

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature, I offered an amendment on the floor and as you'll recall we adjourned in the middle of the consideration of that amendment. It substitutes the word "eighteen" for the word "nineteen" in LB 425 and in so doing seeks to limit the application of the bill. If you've read the Webster decision, if you've read some of the supporting cases with respect to parental notification or parental consent, the court indicates that the judge who is faced in the judicial bypass, or the Legislature I suppose in our case, must attempt to fashion a way that allows for the notification of consent to apply to immature females, immature females, ones incapable of making their own decisions, and indicates of the judicial bypass what the court is asking itself is, is the young woman of sufficient maturity to be able to make this decision on her own without notifying her parents? And as we know from the Minnesota case, the huge overwhelming number of cases in which the bypass is used, that maturity level is found. It's certainly the case that it goes up as you get older. People who raise the kinds of issues and questions that support 425 raise them with respect to younger, teenaged girls, but by moving from nineteen to eighteen, the age of application of this legislation, you've really segregated off from the application by the bill a group of women who really would, if they went to the judicial bypass, would certainly be found to be mature individuals. For them there would be no application were they to go to court because, in fact, they would meet that standard that the whole judicial bypass is out to aim for, is the young woman mature? These are women who are freshmen in college, living away from home, living without hours, without, in some cases, perhaps adult oversight, certainly they are of marriageable age, employment age, voting age, all of those things which are signs of adults would be present for that group of women which would be excused from the application of 425 by this amendment. Remember that the goal of this bill is to aim at immature young women and to provide them in the words of the proponents of the loving, caring advice of adults, parents, loved ones, but in the case of the 19-year-old or the person who would be in the last year of application of 425. We're talking about a woman who is out on her own and who undoubtedly would qualify for the status of mature woman, one who would not be able to be forced by the court to notify parents. I would urge the adoption of this amendment. What you're really doing is simply saving a great deal of burden on these young women and on the court system for a finding that the court would undoubtedly make and would be a foregone conclusion.