

mean equal protection. I have my light on to go into those, but yes, that is one of the questions I have.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Okay, thank you. The literature I read suggests that none of the Supreme Court rulings uses that language, that they are doing this, that they are supporting the constitutionality of parental notification on the basis of parental rights, but rather on what is in the best interests of young people. Now I may be wrong on that, but that's what I'm reading from the lawyers from the University of Nebraska, so I'm going to go with that. I think that what Senator Hillman is offering here is in the best interests of young people. It gives them the opportunity to go to another significant person in their life. For the record I want to make it very clear to the members of this body that I wish that every young person would go to their parents when they are faced with an unwanted pregnancy. I wish that every kid would have parents that would be there for them, and that they could communicate with, and find support with. And, furthermore, I wish that every kid, every woman who is faced with an unwanted pregnancy would not choose abortion. My efforts against this bill are not a statement of my support for abortion. They rather reflect the strategies that we should do to help young people. I have heard repeatedly supporters of 425 say that what they are doing is in the best interests of young people. And yet I have yet to have anybody show me how that's going to happen because of this law. I think what Senator Hillman has offered is reasonable, and hope that you will support it.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Senator Ashford, followed by Senators Chambers and Lindsay. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President. Just to get a little bit into the issue of constitutionality. I also was not intending to speak on the issue. I've...this particular question of whether or not stepparents or grandparents can be notified in lieu of parents has been before us at least a couple of times while I've been in the body. The constitutional issue...and there may be an equal protection argument that Senator Lindsay has got, has quickly gone out and gotten some information on that I don't have, may not have responses to right here. But on the issue of notification of stepparents, under the decisions that I have read, certainly the Minnesota case and others, the reason that parental notification is acceptable is because of...one of the reasons is because there