

does not mean that I want young girls to have abortions or to not tell their parents. What I am talking about here is not whether or not we should have an abortion but whether or not...who should make the decision. I'm not talking about whether or not young people should tell parents but what is the strategy we're going to use to help our young people. When a two-year-old, in an effort to be autonomous and independent, tries to do something and fails they throw what we call a temper tantrum, they scream, they kick, they cry.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: And, as parents, we have an option. We can put our hands over their mouths, hold down their arms and legs and attempt to control their behavior. Or...or we can wrap our arms around them, let their screams break our eardrums, absorb their hits and their kicks and when the crying and anger has subsided we can engulf them with our love and our support and give them the strength that enables them to make good decisions. Those of you that vote for 425 will choose to restrict while I would choose to support. Those of you that vote for 425 will vote to control while I would choose to enable. I urge you to vote against 425. I think it's a sham. It does not do what it purports to do. I think it is cruel. It beats up on young girls and it's very bad law.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Senator Landis, followed by Senator Chambers, Rogers and Bernard-Stevens. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Madam President, and members of the Legislature, I, sensing perhaps along with Senator Rasmussen that this may be my last chance to summarize my feelings on the issue, want to take this opportunity, then I will sit down and take my place along with the rest of you in voting on the fate of LB 425. I want to make two points. The first point I want to make is that the debate on the issue this year has done the Legislature credit. It has done the Legislature credit not that necessarily the majority was allowed to act in some unthinking way but that, in fact, the majority of this body expressed a thoughtfulness that has not been a part of our debate on these issues in years past. I was gratified to see the Withem amendment adopted on General File. I was gratified to see the Lindsay amendment adopted on Select File. I was gratified to see the age change amendment adopted on this level of debate.