

Nebraskans are concerned with the physical and emotional well being of the people of this state. A 24-hour waiting period and a requirement that a woman received information regarding fetal development are both viable topics of debate. And the United States Supreme Court, in 1983, in City of Akron v. Akron Center For Reproductive Health, 462, US 416, found the 24-hour waiting period and a requirement that a woman receive information regarding fetal development were unconstitutional. With that, is the intent of the Legislature that if the U.S. Supreme Court reverses the decision described above, the Legislature should revisit the issues of a 24-hour waiting period and the requirement that a woman receive information regarding fetal development. The members of the Legislature on both sides of the abortion issue should diligently work together to find the best possible solution for all citizens of Nebraska." That's what I'm asking the Legislature to do. That's what I think both sides can do. We can say it's an important issue. We have a constitutional question. Let's wait for the court to decide. If it decides, let's revisit the issue because now it is not only a viable issue but a legitimate issue because it can be legally done. Let's agree to do that, avoid this fight and go on to the bills that we know people desperately need, know that people want, that can be done now, instead of wasting eight hours or more on a bill that will not pass, on a bill that if it would pass, which I...it will not pass, will be enjoined and a bill that is absolutely unconstitutional. And why would we want to do that to all of the other bills? Because we're being asked to divide up so political action groups and committees can rally their forces for their political ends. I resent being used by those groups. The Legislature should resent being using by these groups. This issue is viable and when it's properly before us after the Supreme Court decisions, we should give it every due consideration. Let's avoid the fight now and let's be constructive today rather than what we will end up looking like and being if we have to continue on. And I urge the body to agree to this. It can get us out of a situation. We can hang our heads high and we can tell interest groups on both sides, fire up your own troops, do your own things, but don't ask us to be your whipping persons to do your job for you. That's not what we're here to do. We're here to do other things. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Mr. Clerk, an amendment to the amendment.