

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature, I have been trying to, in a rather disjointed fashion, respond to the opening remarks of Senator Lindsay on LB 78. Three things that he said that I take umbrage at are the lack of regulation, the supposed lack of regulation of the abortion procedure. I think it's considerable and I've identified those areas. Secondly, I have pointed out that the bill is at odds with the alleged purpose that the introducer cites. If it is to counteract or give some kind of break in an economically motivated hard cell by abortion clinics, the bill would be written differently than what it is. The third point, however, that I want to make refers to Senator Lindsay's description of an abortion clinic as a hostile environment. This assumes the protocols used at the clinic are unsympathetic, insensitive, coercive and that simply is not the case. Here, for example, is the protocol followed by the Women's Medical Center of Nebraska, one of the clinics that I'm sure Senator Lindsay objects to and aims LB 78 at in its current form. In the event a patient wishes to receive an abortion at this clinic, they must schedule an appointment before the woman is allowed into the clinic. This means that the patient has already experienced a clinic-imposed waiting period from the time the patient calls to set up the appointment to the time she comes in for the abortion, well longer than the 24 hours in this measure. The time lapse can be as short as 15 hours but generally it's much more along the lines of a week or even up to two weeks, depending on when the patient wishes to schedule an appointment. At the time of the appointment, the person over the phone speaking to the patient requests medical history to ensure that the patient is in good health, gets an approximate gestation time for the pregnancy, requests that the patient bring in a confirmation or seek a confirmation of the pregnancy prior to coming in and to have an escort with her in the event she is coming from outside of the Omaha area, or if she is scheduled to receive an IV anesthetic. All this is done over the phone. When the individual comes to the clinic on that day of her appointment, they accept payment, then they complete the medical history portion of the chart. They draw blood in order to run some basic lab tests and they also run a urine analysis. Additionally, there is an ultra sound taken to determine the precise gestational development of the pregnancy and, should the patient wish to, the ultra sound will be shown to the patient. Following these orig...these beginning medical procedures, there is an intake session in which a trained counselor, a counselor who is capable of meeting the standards, by the way, in our