

April 2, 1992

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SENATOR WARNER: Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've been listening here now for about two and a half hours to all of you and have taken a lot of notes and I want to explain just first why I voted against the last amendment. In the first place, I don't like giving it to the Health Department. I would like to keep it in house in the Legislature. And the second place, I'm not against the idea. The second place, we already have a study resolution in place which you started and I had given you names and other people had too and I think...and I wish you would just go on with that one instead of setting up a whole new task force, which the Health Department, if it gets it, will come back and ask for more money. And when I can't pull out \$247,000 for my Lancaster County Mental Health group and my domestic violence and early childhood and all those that are still at risk, you please understand why I am concerned about this particular thing, the way it is worded, a task force, and so on, indicates money for consultants and all the other things that go into making a big study. The other thing, I know that you've gone back and looked at Senator Morehouse's teenage pregnancy study. We...one of the things that I have worked at very diligently, from the beginning, is to try to understand why there are so many abortions and why there are so many teenage pregnancies. So I've been there too and I...but I just wanted you to understand why I voted against the amendment. And I will come back to that before I finish. I want to, aside from the bill itself, the 24-hour notice and the 24-hour waiting period and all of that is concerned, my big problem, as everyone knows, I have wonderful friends who work in Planned Parenthood and I have wonderful friends who work in the pro-life movement and each one of those people, they're all women, most of them are women, and I have neighbors, yes, I could go up and down my street and tell you exactly who lives in which house and how they stand on pro-life or pro-choice. I have both pro-choice and pro-life neighbors and I get along with everyone and we try to understand each other. But I want to read two things for you because this comes back to, no matter what we talk about, it comes back to a philosophical problem. The Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights quotes a rabbi, Rabbi Sofer (phonetic), and what he says is no woman is required to build the world by destroying herself. Now what the rabbi meant about that at the time, I don't know, because it's way back in the Nineteenth Century. But the other brochure which I like...both of these are really good brochures because they tell you in good language

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