

this year, but as time has gone on for whatever reason and have met with different groups, come up with different opinions, different justification of how people feel, and I think in looking at LB 78 itself one of the things I wanted to share with you was a statement of the organization of obstetric and gynecologic neonatal nurses. This is a group of nurses who work regularly with health issues, women, and this is a statement that they want, I think, people to be aware of. NAACOG supports the position that all women must have access to unbiased and accurate information regarding health care and reproduction. We believe that any health care or reproductive decision is best made by the informed woman once she has consulted with her health care provider. We further believe that these very individual, personal decisions are best made within the health care system that respect the individual's right to confidentiality and the values, morals and ethics of each individual, i.e., both the woman and the health care provider. Abortion and the question of whose rights prevail, the mother's or the fetus, is an issue that continues to be the subject of often heated debate. Most major poles and opinion surveys demonstrate a divided public regarding how the abortion issue should be decided and whose rights should prevail. We clearly recognize the fact that abortion is a controversial issue and that each of our members has a right to his or her personal belief. Therefore, we consciously choose not to support one position or the other, but rather to support and promote women's rights to unbiased information and access to health care. We support efforts in legislation that are designed to prevent unintended pregnancies. We respect the values, the morals and the ethics of each of our members, as well as the women we serve. We respect the rights of individuals to make informed choices. We respect the rights of health care provider who chooses not to participate in activities that are in conflict with his or her own system of values, morals and ethics. These are people that are in health care and it's their philosophy and it's one that I respect and they carry that out in their professions on a daily basis. I think they provide that information, I think they provide that care and I think it's there no matter what kind of a bill we pass today, and I think it's important that we also look at respecting each other's values, morals, ethnic backgrounds and that we also allow the individual to make the type of choice that best suits them. So I would add that along with this other discussion that we're having here and ask you to think about those things as we continue through the evening in looking at LB 78. Thank you.