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LB 828

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Jensen, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. In LB 828, unprofessional conduct provisions related to abortion were transferred. Those provisions also refer to performing a partial-birth abortion. The bill to ban the performance of partial-birth abortion was in LB 23 that was signed by Governor Nelson in 1997. When abortion provisions were transferred in LB 828, it raised concerns by Planned Parenthood that the references to partial-birth abortion should be removed because the bill had been declared unconstitutional and enjoined by a lower federal court. That decision is currently under appeal. In order to avoid any controversy and extended debate over the transfer of the abortion language, the Health Committee members, all seven of us, decided to recommend that those sections of the bill simply be removed. That is all the amendment does, and I would urge its adoption. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Discussion on AM0851 to the committee amendments to LB 828? Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Jensen, I was listening but I didn't quite hear the beginning. You're taking out the references to partial birth...taking out the references to what?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes, thank you, Senator Crosby. I'd be glad to clear that up. Really in LB 828, all we were doing was transferring it from one section to another section.

SENATOR CROSBY: Yeah.

SENATOR JENSEN: There was some discussion about that, and rather than get into that partial-birth abortion debate that we had in 1997, it was decided let's just take it out of the bill altogether. That's all we're doing. We're taking it out of LB 828.