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LB 249

went to the Education Committee. It was reported out on a unanimous vote. It relates to a mandate that was placed into statute a number of years ago regarding the dissemination of abortion-related information to students in the public school system, grades 7 through 12. And each year, as the public school system complies with this mandate, it raises a number of questions and some controversy. The public school administrators, the State Board of Education, the Association of School Boards and other public school groups have supported the elimination of this mandate. There's been bills introduced quite a number of years in a row. The bills just never seem to quite make it to the finish line, so hopefully with this amendment we can take care of this issue and this particular mandate on the public school system. I'd be happy to entertain any questions and, with that, I'd ask for the approval of AM0887. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. You've heard the opening on AM0887. Open for discussion. Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I don't know who for sure to direct this to, so I'm going to ask Senator Raikes to answer this question because it was his committee.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you yield to a question from Senator Thompson?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes, I would.

SENATOR THOMPSON: You know, I certainly understand why schools don't want to do this and...but I guess my concern is for a child who is a victim of incest or abuse by someone where she has no way to get this information, or she needs to talk to someone, needs to know what recourse and how to get to the court, which is where a decision could be made in these special circumstances. Was there any discussion in the committee of what takes the place of this if this isn't there?

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator, you raise a good point and I can give you one perspective, and I hope you'll ask others as well. I