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May 16, 2003

LB 249

SENATOR THOMPSON: Okay.

SENATOR FOLEY: It's a free speech right.

SENATOR THOMPSON: So you're saying your intent is not to take that from the school.

SENATOR FOLEY: Public school personnel have free speech rights. This amendment does not infringe on that right. They can disseminate the information that they feel is appropriate. This amendment doesn't stop it. It just says you're not required to disseminate written information in the classroom to 133,000 students every year, grades 7 to 12, regarding the judicial waiver process and the abortion...their right to an abortion. We're not requiring them, that's not part of their mission, to disseminate that information. If they want to disseminate some information, my amendment doesn't stop it.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Chambers, and as you know, this is your third time coming up, followed by Senators Mossey and Loudon on the Foley amendment to LB 249.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, an amendment is being prepared that would make this voluntary on the parts of the schools. It would strike that first "shall" in the beginning of this section, which you don't have before you, but instead of saying each school district shall provide written information, it says each school district may. Then, where it says the information shall explain and so forth, that becomes a statement that says, if information is provided, this is the information that would be provided. Then a sentence is stricken which says the provisions of this section shall be narrowly construed to require a school district to provide only the information specified in this section, the provisions of this section, and so forth. When that has been prepared, we will probably have to make copies and hand them around. But the purpose of the amendment is to change this from being a mandate to being permissive, because I cannot say strongly enough that I