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option that we require the public schools to talk about. There is no requirement that alternatives to abortion be discussed. Secondly, the abortion mandate requires public school personnel to communicate to students that there is a legal way to get an abortion without their parents ever knowing about it. Quite frankly, I don't think we ought to require public school personnel to communicate that message. I bring this bill to you today because of my pro-life convictions and I will not try to pretend otherwise. However, I hope that even if you do not share my views on that sensitive subject, you will at least agree with me that this mandate is causing needless difficulties for our public schools and forces them to comply with a state mandate that they never asked for and they, most certainly, would like to be relieved of. The Nebraska Association of School Administrators is on record in support of getting rid of this mandate. The Nebraska Association of School Boards is on record in support of getting rid of this mandate. And the Nebraska State Board of Education adopted a policy resolution in support of getting rid of this mandate. Again, I remind you the bill won the unanimous support of our Education Committee. Where did this mandate come from? In 1991, a bill was being debated on the floor of Legislature regarding the establishment of parental notification requirements for abortions sought by minors. To no great surprise, that bill was highly controversial and was the subject of extended debate. In the give-and-take of the legislative process, a Select File amendment was added to the bill that established this mandate. That is precisely what former Senator Ron Withem did and that is how this mandate came into being. The Legislature swallowed the pill of the Withem amendment in order to enact the parental notification bill. And the very next year it was Senator Withem who was the first to come in with a bill to get rid of the mandate. I think I'm being fair to former Speaker Ron Withem when I characterize his political views as pro-choice. And if I'm wrong about that, I will publicly apologize. Yet despite his pro-choice views, he was willing to admit, much to his credit, that his amendment to the parental notification bill did not work out as he had intended it to and he was the first to offer legislation in two successive sessions of the Legislature to eliminate the mandate. In 1994, former Speaker Ron Withem actually succeeded getting the bill to eliminate the mandate