

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

January 12, 2004 LB 172

of the districts who is suing the state: But I urge your support of the original version of LB 172, the green copy. This bill would eliminate the requirement that school districts distribute information concerning parental notification and judicial waiver regarding abortion. Nebraska is the only state to require this kind of notification. It is one step, but an important one, towards reducing the requirements placed on school districts to distract from our core mission to help students learn and achieve. Thank you for your consideration. You know every time you go out into the district you hear about mandates, state mandates, state mandates. And, of course, I always ask for, send me a list; this is from the county, the cities and the schools. Well, so far, I haven't got too big of a list. But the thing is we, especially with our situation in our schools now where we are trying to define what education is supposed to be and what we're supposed to support, and so forth. And is this part of the core education? I don't believe it is. And I think the more of these things we take away from...a burden from the schools, the better off the schools will be and they can teach the subjects that they are supposed to be teaching. So from this standpoint alone, for this particular subject this morning, this is why I support this bill. And you know I am pro-life, so that's...but I'm not going to get into that right now. This is...I think this relieves a burden on our schools. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BROMM:** Thank you, Senator Engel. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Schimek.

**SENATOR SCHIMEK:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Before I begin, I should respond to something Senator Foley said earlier about Senator Withem. And in the text that I read over the weekend, Senator Foley, Senator Withem got up to introduce this amendment, and when he did, he said that he didn't believe he had ever spoken on the abortion issue before. He said that he was neither pro-choice nor pro-life and he'd always stayed out of the debate. So I just wanted to insert that into the record because I don't you can characterize him probably one way or the other. But he did have a concern about young women having the information that they needed on this particular subject and, apparently, the body agreed with him. I do