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FLOOR DEBATE

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does, traditionally known as pro-choice--I don't want to throw names around and labels. But I do remember the issue rather well. And it is interesting to see such a broad base of support for LB 172, and yet we have a hard time doing what such a broad base of support wants us to do. And when we look at schools and mandates, and does this prohibit schools from sharing this form? I understand it will not. Is that correct, Senator Foley? And he nods his head, yes. And yet, we want to empower school districts to do what they think is best, and apparently what they think is best is not this mandate to shove this information in front of students. And I believe that we can, at the end of the day, adopt, or at least advance, LB 172, and arrive at some policy that makes it more workable for local school districts who can address the situations. We have more counselors in schools now than we did in 1991, and we know that for a fact. And we have folks who already know if there...in many, many, many cases, if there's an abusive relationship. And we can talk about these extreme cases that may exist, but that's not what this is about. And chances are that the school counselors know about these very unfortunate circumstances in school districts. But shoving a form in front of every high school student's face certainly is not the answer. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Foley, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. President. A number of points. The statement was made that, how much of a burden could it really be? All we're doing is passing a piece of paper out to kids; a lot of the kids throw it away. What's the burden? The burden is when the kids take the paper home to their parents, and their parents say, who gave you this? My teacher did. And then the phones start to ring, and then the letters start to be written, and the school administrators have to deal with all of this. Why are we placing this burden on our school administrators? There's no reason for that. Senator Raikes is absolutely correct, this bill does not prohibit the flow of information to students. The student...if there's a student with a unique parental problem, this bill doesn't shut down school people from discussing that problem with the student, with bringing that problem to law enforcement if need be, with