

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

January 12, 2004 LB 172

them, clearly, is to establish...if people don't already know, I am staunchly pro-life. There's no question about it. So I rise, obviously, in opposition to Senator Chambers' recommitment to committee. But that's not really part of the three points. The three points, I think, that need to be made, one of them, I railed, during the interim, constantly railed against the idea--and we ran into it a few times, so I had to speak to it--against the idea of an unfunded federal mandate. Got to be honest with you, four or five years ago, I didn't even know what that meant. But believe me, I know what it means now. And I also know that...Senator Landis made a good point: what, six times before lunch? That's probably five times too many. I think that we can approach this in a lot more creative way. I agree with him. I mean, we're doing it all across the board. But I think that doesn't excuse the fact that some of these things can be addressed and dealt with. That is significant. Point number two, I think a lot of senators have made issue of the idea that this information could be inconsequential. Some have mentioned that it is consequential. I think, based on the fact that, what I already told you, that I'm staunchly pro-life, it's consequential. Inconsequential to who? Depending on who you're talking to, and depending on what kind of information that the public school is forced to give out at the beginning of the year, all the information is consequential, whether the person...whether the 17-year-old, 16-year-old is reading it or not. And I guess I'm not...it's been...it's convoluted right now, and I don't know who spoke on the aspect of consequential and inconsequential, but I really believe that it is consequential. And that's the second piece. The third...and I fear opponents of this bill were...I don't necessarily fear it; I'd like them maybe to speak to it a little bit...is the idea that this information is the right information for a public school to be driving. Senator Maxwell referred to it; other senators have referred to it. Is that the business that schools are supposed to be in? I would imagine--and I don't want to speak for Senator Tyson--I would imagine that he has a really strong idea that the handgun in the hand of a responsible adult actually saves lives. I don't know if I believe that, and I don't know if I want that kind of information disseminated. I think what we're getting at here is some semantics that we're not going to be able to hash out. We need to try to figure