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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I didn't vote for the Chambers amendment (sic) to send this bill back to committee. I was tempted. It would probably have been the only time in my life when I was the only green light amongst a herd of red. Senator Chambers, I know that happens to you often, but it doesn't happen to me quite as often. But I didn't, because I really don't think it would do any...well it might do some good to send it back to committee, because then we'd be rid of it for a while, and that would be wonderful. But I would rather talk this issue through. You know, during those four years of debate on the floor that were often very contentious, the one thing that came out of that debate in 1991 was that everybody was trying to see if they couldn't come to some kind of common ground on the bill. And the discussion was much more civil than it had been in the past. There were some real amendments discussed that would improve the bill, or not, as you saw it. But there was a genuine discussion, and there were some amendments that were adopted that were good. And I just wish that we could maybe get to that place on this bill. If we don't want the schools doing it via the form, then how do we want it done? Because I think it's an important, critical element of the bill on parental notification and judicial waiver. And it was discussed over and over on the floor. There were other amendments that were offered. And I would like to read to you just a bit from Senator Will, who at that time offered the amendment that would simply say that the school nurse would provide the information. And he said that essentially it was along the lines of the amendment adopted by Senator Withem, and it would basically be a specific application of that concept. And it would apply to an individual student, and it would say that if any nurse or school counselor is informed in the course of his or her professional duties by a student...by a pregnant student that "a," the student is pregnant, that "b," the student does not wish to inform her parents of the pregnancy, and that "c," that the student is considering an abortion, at that point the school nurse or counselor would have to inform the student that "a," she is obligated to inform her parents if she's seeking an abortion, at least one of them, before she is able to proceed with an abortion, and secondly, that if the student doesn't wish to inform her parents or have a provider inform her parents, that