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FLOOR DEBATE

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children go back to their parents for guidance in the area. I believe he described parts of the country as having an abortion ethic. My notion is that that would be an ethic of indifference and certainly an ethic of governmental control over the lives of young women rather than self-control. But be that as it may, let's imagine some of the children who are, I think, imperiled by this. Since 1998, 30 children have been killed due to child abuse or neglect and these were by people who were responsible for their well-being, namely, parents, live-in boyfriends that were there because one of their parents allowed that person to be in the home. In 2002, 3,454 Nebraska children were the victims of substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect. That's three and a half thousand kids that we know of that were abused by their parents. Senator Foley says, trust the parents; 3,500 abused children trusted their parents and they were abused. That's the fault with LB 172. It says there is one and only one answer, one and only one source of information, the state has no role, the school has no role, we need to trust parents. You know what? Overwhelmingly that would be true. I don't dispute that. Anyse Wisdom's parents probably are very involved, very loving, and probably give her very strong counsel and advice, and she has confidence in them. Great. She is not one of the 3,454 cases of substantiated child abuse in the year 2002. Ten thousand eight hundred and eighty children were in out-of-home care at some point in 2002. There were 10,000 kids who weren't with their parents. Senator Foley's answer is trust the parents; 10,000 kids who weren't in their home with their parents in that year. There isn't one answer. LB 172 takes out a default mechanism, a proposition that says, look,...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...kids are in school. Whether they are with their grandparents, whether they are in foster care, whether they're in "juvie," they are in school. To the best that we can get them there, that's the one place where all kids are. We're going to give them the base information that says, you know what, young women, if you're faced with an unwanted pregnancy, there is an option for securing an abortion if you don't want to bring it up with your parents. By the way, otherwise our principle in this state is notify your parents. The general law