

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

February 2, 2004 LB 172

stands now, it is simply a willy-nilly kind of thing where the counselor may or may not provide that information. This bill says, okay, if we're not going to have the mandatory notification on October 1, then we at least have to have that person in place, and it is a mandate by law, and that's the difference. So I just wanted you to know that. I want to share with you what I...I think there is so much misunderstanding out there about what we're trying to do in here, at least what Senator Chambers and I and some others are trying to do. And this is from a teacher here in Lincoln, and he's agreeing with Senator Foley. But I find that in his agreement he is not understanding what the legislation does. And he says, in the paper, that I was quoted as saying are we ashamed of the law we passed, meaning LB 455...54. And he says I think you should be and here's why. What good is a law that undermines the legal authority of a parent or guardian? Well, that's not what the law says. The law, in fact, tries to help that family relationship by saying that the child has to or that the practitioner or the child has to inform the parents that the child has required an abortion. He goes on to say, what good is a law that restricts the rights of the people who would love and care most for a person in a pregnancy situation? That is not what the law is...it is trying to encourage that kind of communication between parents and child. Abuse, as you say, he goes on to say, is a very weak argument. Well, I would definitely not agree with him on that particular argument. I think abuse is a very serious consideration that we should all be thinking about. He's goes on to say I believe this law is currently in place because it brings young people to the front doors of Planned Parenthood. Well, for goodness sakes, how does it do that if it gives the information to the students as a matter of course? What will bring the students to the doors of Planned Parenthood, if you're against that, is taking away the information from the students so that they go to a third party for that information. And I think that...I think this particular teacher's understanding is totally off the wall. And I think that he and I don't agree about whether schools should provide...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.