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FLOOR DEBATE

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your amendment, but that's neither here nor there. I rise to speak a little bit about the bigger issue here and to say that I don't think what we're talking about, the judicial bypass, really applies to very many young women. We're talking about the very few here. And I want to take you a little bit through the steps necessary in order to get a judicial bypass, and you will realize how difficult it is. First of all, the young woman, if she lives in a small or rural community, it is...the information would probably not be available any other way if her school does not provide it. It would mean that she had to place numerous calls to agencies in a larger community in an effort to learn where even to begin. So when we talk about the young woman could go to Planned Parenthood, or this agency or that agency, those aren't even available in smaller communities. Next thing that she has to do, she has to find the correct courthouse to go to, and this can be confusing to a young person who has no experience with the legal system. It probably would even be confusing to some adults who have had no experience with the legal system. First of all, she would want to know, should she go to the federal courthouse? Does she go to the county clerk? What is the difference between the district court and the county court? And if she goes to the county court, I would suggest to you that it would be one of those occasions when people would notice, because in a small community a young woman doesn't just go to county court, generally speaking. Going to a public courthouse, locating the necessary forms, completing the petition, filing the petition, waiting for an available judge, and meeting with the judge to have an attorney appointed would be the next step that she would have to take. She would have to call a law office, explain that she's pregnant and that she needs to see an attorney, and she'd have to ask for an appointment. Now, remember, you're 17 years old. You have to meet with a lawyer who is a stranger to you and answer numerous questions, such as: How do you know you're pregnant? Can you explain the abortion procedure? Do know the risks of abortion? Have you considered continuing the pregnancy? How does your decision...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN PRESIDING

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: One minute.