

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

February 2, 2004 LB 172

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...reconcile with your religious beliefs? Then she would probably meet with a second attorney, a guardian ad litem, for a further interrogation, or questioning, if you'd prefer to call it that way. I'm sure to her it probably feels like an interrogation. I mean, we're talking about real personal matters here. Then she has to wait for hours or sometimes even days for the judge assigned to the case to be available to hear the matter. This is not an easy procedure. Then she has to appear in court a second time, in the presence of a judge, a court reporter, attorney, her attorney, and possibly a guardian ad litem, and answer a series of questions, some of which may be irrelevant, shaming or humiliating, such as: Were you using birth control? You weren't thinking at the time, were you?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Time, Senator Schimek. Thank you. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, one of the reasons it's easy for me to relate to the problems that others have is because of the problems my people have. I come by that sensitivity naturally, and I'm going to talk about these things on the floor. And I don't care if you get cloture on this bill because, if you do, I'm going to say it on other bills that I would not have talked about, and I'm looking at some bills coming up. I'm in a mood now, I'm in a scrapping mood, a pugnacious mood, so you can vote any way that you want to. But as I think of how little concern there is on this floor, in legislatures around the country, on the floor of Congress, with the real world, it causes me to wonder what in the world value there is to having legislatures. Why do people want to get into the Legislature when they are afraid to confront the issues that are brought to us to deal with? I don't have to answer for anybody but myself. I saw on the news where Rumsfeld and some of those other people around Bush are going to increase the number of young men and women sent to Iraq. They're going to increase the number; send more of them over there. But they're doing something that is extremely disheartening and morale-destroying to people in the military, especially those who have faced combat. Their time to get out