

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

February 2, 2004 LB 172

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Then I'll give what little time I have back, and turn on my light.

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

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I would like to continue a little bit about the judicial bypass system or waiver system, which I suspect not many of us have really thought about what's entailed in that. And remember, remember, this is the young woman who has to go through all of these questions, who has to go through, perhaps, humiliation, but nowhere in this scenario is there a young man. This all falls on the young woman, and it is a very, very difficult process, which is why not many young women choose to use it; it's why most young women talk to their parents in the long run, in the end. But after the young woman has appeared in the court a second time in the presence of the judge and the attorneys and the reporters and so forth and been asked questions, she also has to demonstrate her maturity, which is the statutory requirement for one to receive a waiver, by answering numerous questions regarding school, grades, employment, finances, athletics, activities, medical knowledge, relationships, and responsibilities. She has to arrange for transportation for conferences with attorneys and court appearances. Young people often do not own their own vehicles and must go to great lengths to make these arrangements, and that is particularly true if they have to travel great distances to go to a court. They have to arrange for repeated absences from school, work, and home in order to attend the appointments for verifying the pregnancy, meeting with lawyers, and court appearances. These absences may be for hours at a time, depending upon the distance the young woman has to travel to obtain professional services. And finally, she has to wait an appeal if the court denies to request a grant of waiver of notification. This would take a great deal of stamina and a great deal of maturity, I believe, to access that system. Most young women will tell their parents rather than trying to go to this length, and so I think in the long run what we're talking about here, again, are a very few young women who have great need to be protected from one parent