

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

March 25, 2004 LB 172

12- to 18-year-old girls information on all alternatives for crisis pregnancy should be distributed. They say "distributed"; I think "available," at least. Religiously affiliated and secular crisis pregnancy centers, women's health agencies, abuse and rape crisis centers, family counseling centers, and public health agencies could provide information to be placed on one document and distributed to students in the public schools, and teachers could distribute this information with a clear conscience because they would be helping their students find a personalized, healthy and responsible alternative to a crisis pregnancy. I think we could have found some common ground. I think that we could have found an agreement. I do not intend to delay this bill this morning. I intend to vote red on this bill. But I'm just saying to you, I don't think this is a very good way to do business when we will consider no amendments or no compromise. Just because...just because there are a minority of legislators in this body who believe in a particular point of view, doesn't mean that they should be totally ignored. And I just would like to say that I think this is the wrong thing to do. I think the schools would have willingly gone along with the toll-free number which they had at one time endorsed. I think we could have found a solution. Now what we're going to get, now what the students are going to get is nothing, and I think that's really a shame. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Open for discussion on the motion to return. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. As many of you know, I did vote this bill out of...out of committee, the Education Committee, and then I did not vote for cloture on the first round, and I won't be voting for cloture on this round either. I'm very...I'm disturbed. About a week ago there was an article in the Omaha World-Herald about two of our colleagues that weren't endorsed by a particular right-to-life group, and both of these men that were not endorsed are people I have immense respect for. One of them actually has adopted children. One of them has taken children into his home...or, excuse me, has taken pregnant teens into his home, given them a place to stay. The other individual I know personally, a devout man, good family, excellent individual, and neither one of these