

March 20, 1979

LB 59

So if you felt that prevention of abortion should be such a matter then you should offer an amendment if you think it would have to be put into the statute rather than left to the schools to do.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Senator Chambers, I will do that if this amendment should pass. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers, I recognize you to close on your amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, again to touch on the history of LB 63 since it was brought up by Senator Lamb and yesterday by Senator Murphy, the effort to revive the bill got twenty nine votes. It would have taken thirty because the number of days allowing a reconsideration motion on a mere twenty five votes had passed, therefore it required a suspension of the rules or thirty votes. The twenty nine votes were obtained and I believe had the body not been decimated by so many absences, the thirtieth vote would have been here. I do not think this is going to be a heavy burden on the schools. Look at the burden psychologically and emotionally that it places on our children and their families. There are times when perhaps certain things ought not be mandated by the Legislature but when it comes to a matter of general concern and I think the welfare of children is of general concern of the Legislature, then if the schools or the Department of Education have not seen fit to consider these matters, then the Legislature in assuming its policy making function must act. What this amendment says is that the children afflicted by these ailments are a matter of concern to the Legislature. Since the vast majority of the children in this state who have their attitudes towards various things and people shaped in the public school classrooms, these issues that they are going to have to face after they leave the classroom should be brought to their attention there. They can best be brought to the attention of the students by people who understand these issues and can properly present them. Since more children with these types of ailments and afflictions are being mainstreamed and this is mandated by the law, there should certainly be some preparatory work so that when they are mainstreamed they are treated like human beings and not like freaks or other sources of apprehension. In this article that I handed you, even the teachers admit to feeling apprehension and the apprehension is based on a lack of knowledge and understanding regarding how to deal with these children. If they could be viewed as