

suggest that while your concern for that decision-making process is laudable, that this is a farce. This isn't counseling. At this last minute, the climate isn't right, the pressures are too great, and then to also have to hand somebody a form and say that under what circumstances this person is qualified to counsel and what circumstances they are not simply confuses the issue further. In fact, one of the issues in counseling for a number of years has been consumer protection and the idea that consumers need assistance in being able to detect who is qualified to counsel and who is not. And we do, in fact, have a bill right now in the Public Health and Welfare Committee to deal with that very issue, LB 579, and I think that might better solve this whole issue than either of these amendments. And so I am going to oppose both of them. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President and members, Senator Marsh, you know what? I agree with you. I, for one, want qualified counselors also, but your amendment says exactly the opposite. It says that any yahoo can walk in and counsel a pregnant girl and call themselves a crisis counselor as long as they hand her a sheet that says I'm not qualified. And I don't understand how you can stand there and say that counselors should be qualified, we want only the best for these people in this situation. I agree with that. I don't agree that the intent of your amendment is the same as the language that you...the comments that you made on the floor. I mean, it is there in black and white and it's easy to see that, yes, these counselors are there, but if they're not qualified, all we have to do is say, I'm not qualified and they can go ahead and give counseling to these people. I agree with Senator Scofield to a point that this is a very bad amendment and I again urge the body to oppose it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Morehead and after that the speaking order is Senator Higgins, Labeledz and Wesely.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Mr. President and members of the body, I guess I'm looking for some clarification. It's a little difficult to follow the implications of all this and so I am going to ask just a couple of questions of Senator Hall or Senator Labeledz. Maybe Senator Hall...oh, I guess we're on