

Public Health and Social Services, I guess it is now, dealing with guidance and counseling. There is also a bill out there on the qualifications of social workers. This is a problem, not only for the individual that is under the crisis situation, but also for the family and the future of her family and everyone else. I commend Senator Labeledz and Senator Hall for bringing to us the fact that these people should be qualified because it is a traumatic situation and so I do concur with them that they should be qualified. But I also feel like Senator Marsh, that the other people should be qualified too. I don't think...it may be the same person and I think the individuals working with that person should be qualified, whether it is at a crisis situation, and I know that's emergency, or whether it is in the clinic. I think all of the qualifications need to be there. I cannot oppose Senator Labeledz's amendment, but I am going to support Senator Marsh's amendment too because I think that those people both places need to be qualified. This is a life and lives in a very traumatic situation, so I would urge the body to set up similar qualifications to each individual that is giving the counseling.

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I've been struggling over these two amendments, trying to find a real difference in them and I have to say as others have said, I find a good deal of merit in both of them. But in comparing them and in considering the contents of this bill, we are talking about informed consent and let's face it, Senators, you get a woman my age or Senator Smith's age, the youngster here, most of us probably would know enough about pregnancy and abortion that we might not go to a counselor. I might go to a psychiatrist to see whether or not I ought to kill myself if I got pregnant now, but I don't think I would go to a counselor to find out about abortions and the consequences mentally or physically of it. But I think we need to look back at the original intent of the bill, originally when we started this. We were not talking about women. We were really concerned with young girls, 13, 14, 15 becoming pregnant, some of them, believe it or not, so ignorant they didn't even know how they became pregnant. And so you look at it from the standpoint of what was the intent of the bill. It was to see to it that before these young girls, immature, not mature women, were to have an abortion that a qualified person would sit down, explain to