

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members, that counseling that is in committee, 579 was subject to a 407 review. Two recommendations came back on that legislation and it's being held because two divergent feelings are there. How you address qualifications for counselors is a very difficult issue. So to be able to do that, I'm not sure we're going to be able to resolve it maybe even this session. It's going to be a long-term thing, who is a counselor, who is not. A minister may be a qualified counselor in one respect and maybe in other ways not and who is and who is not a counselor has been subject to a lot of discussion and so that issue is very, very complex, much more difficult than some of the others we've dealt with and I'm not sure that you're going to see action even on it this session because of that difficulty. So my recommendation is, in fact, as Senator Scofield, said, probably to reject both the Marsh and Labeledz amendments because even in our particular attention that we've given to this, we've been unable to say who is qualified and who isn't in a general sense to be a licensed counselor or a certified counselor. So not disregarding the concern of Senator Labeledz in trying to have good people who know what they are doing counseling these people, I'm not sure this is the way to do it. I would tend to reject both of these and perhaps we can deal with them in the long term and I don't think the world will end that we don't take action this session on that particular item of qualified counselors.

PRESIDENT: Senator Labeledz is on next in the speaking order and then Senator Marsh.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Scofield mentioned the fact that a young woman or a pregnant woman when she has decided to have an abortion, she is in the clinic, she walks over to whomever is supposed to be counseling her and they hand her a consent form. Well, as far as I'm concerned, abortion is a surgical procedure and any one of us that have been in the hospital know that we are also handed forms to sign and it explains what is going to happen as far as billing us by the hospital. We give approval for the doctor to perform the surgery, and before that, the doctor comes in, explains the surgery, explains the anesthetic, explains everything to you regarding the surgical procedure as we should do with an abortion procedure prior to this procedure itself and then sign the