

and will know what's going to happen during the procedure. I see nothing wrong with that. We do it in the hospitals all the time and to be presented a form prior to any type of surgery is, in my estimation, is absolutely necessary and that's what we're asking here, but we're asking that it's done by a qualified person that is trained and the informed consent form will be signed in the Akron case and that is the Supreme Court decided that this is absolutely okay, necessary and so forth. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. President. I did not wish to be accused of trying to do away with all antiabortion counseling which is the exact purpose for saying, if such counselors are not so qualified, they still can be doing what they currently are doing. But the consumer, the pregnant woman, has a right to know whether that person is a qualified counselor. The counselor of any organization, a rabbi, a priest, a minister, a person who heads their education department and who has worked with this person, the pregnant woman, over an extended period of time should not be in the same category. I am not trying to harass ongoing groups with my amendment, but every physician who performs any surgical procedure is required, is required by medical rules. None of the other medical procedures have separate qualifications in statute except the abortion area. This is not where they should be, but if you want to reject it, please adopt my amendment and then reject the entire amendment. Senator Higgins, my amendment would then become part of the Higgins (sic) amendment and all those qualifications would be present for both categories of counselors for pregnant women. That's why it was designed to be part of her amendment so that I didn't have to say the same thing over again. It is in the same paragraph. It is all part of that section. We don't want to duplicate verbiage. We want to make it very clear. But if you are in favor of counseling, this amendment offered by Senator Marsh should be adopted. If you do not wish to have any counseling in your statute at this stage, picking out one procedure only, then vote down the entire package, but at least have part of it. At least help inform the consumer. At least have persons know what kind of background the counselors do have. I urge your adoption of the Marsh amendment to the Labeledz amendment. Then do as you like with the entire package.