

procedure about to be performed upon that patient and that consent essentially requires the patient being provided adequate information to make a decision regarding the propriety of the performance of that medical procedure upon that patient. But today those informed consents that are in effect, obtained from patients before they undergo a medical procedure are usually extracted or elicited by, again, a nurse practitioner or other office or hospital personnel, not necessarily by the physician. The physician may have laid the groundwork, but usually an auxiliary person is the one who obtains that consent. We do not establish standards. We do not establish standards in the criminal code...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...for the qualifications of the person who provides the information in other procedures. To the best of my knowledge we have yet to see in the law need for standards to be provided in the criminal code for a physician to use in his or her office or his or her clinic or his or her hospital in obtaining consents. I do not believe that the abortion procedure should be treated so substantially differently from other medical procedures to require us in the criminal code to fashion standards for the people who in effect are providing information to the person who was thinking of undergoing the abortion and for doing whatever interim and small amount of time counseling would exist during the time that that person makes that final decision as to whether or not to undergo an abortion. I appreciate Senator Labeledz providing us these thoughtful questions. I think in this particular instance, however, that for us to impose a special burden on the relationship between the doctor and the patient is not warranted and is not good public policy.

PRESIDENT: The Chair would like to announce that Senator Lamb has guests under the south balcony this morning, Mr. and Mrs. Wes Larreau of Arnold and Mr. and Mrs. Alton Uhlig of Mason City. If you would stand and be recognized, we would like to welcome you to the Legislature. Thank you. On the Labeledz amendment, Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. You know it's kind of always been kind of contradictory to me that if your 14 year old child has to have a tonsillectomy or an