

April 8, 1991

LB 425

CLERK: 25 ayes, 11 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the Senator Withem's amendment.

SENATOR CONWAY: The Withem amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk, do you have additional amendments to the bill?

CLERK: Yes, Mr. President.

SENATOR CONWAY: The call is raised.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment to the bill is by Senator Landis. Senator, page 1517 is your amendment.

SENATOR CONWAY: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I have no doubt that we will, in this state, be living with the terms of a parental notification bill 90 days after this session. This will be over the objection of a number of people, myself included. On the other hand, it will be a regime that we will live with, as will our children, and towards that fact I offer the suggestion to the body, under this amendment, to allow notification to be made to family members who are adult, but offer a broader opportunity for that kind of exchange of a loving, caring adult to advise, to counsel, to recommend to the minor child. Added to a single parent for the purposes of notification is a list which includes grandparent, sister, brother, aunt, uncle, stepparent or guardian, all of whom I believe would operate with the best interests of the young woman's interest at heart, and I offer this as a way of trying to get to that portion of the bill which I find objectionable, that portion is the dealing with the potentially dysfunctional family. Fifty-nine percent of the children born into the United States in 1983 and after will wind up living in a single-parent family before they reach the age of 18. About 60 percent of young people will wind up living in a single-parent family. In the event the dysfunctional family happens to be the one custodial parent, and the second parent is absent, which is quite common, the difficulty is going to be in finding an appropriate person to notify that is not dysfunctional or at risk. And while parental notification may be good in theory, it will be difficult in practice unless we have loving, caring adults who have the best interests of the daughter, the young woman in mind, who can advise her but without tripping the specter of a dysfunctional family. In an