

decision. And it doesn't gut the heart of the bill. It pumps further energy and lifeblood to that heart to really accomplish what it is we all want to do for our children. And Senator Landis's amendment is not out of line. Senator Landis's amendment is something that we can go with that will not take anything out of the bill, it won't subtract...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...what those people that want the bill are trying to do, but it will possibly bring families closer together because they all may be able to participate. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I haven't spoken on this issue and I don't intend to, I don't believe, to speak again, but I just want to relate a couple of thoughts I have about how the debate has gone. First of all, in the last four years, I guess I have talked on this issue as much as anybody else has and stated my opinions for the record. It was my amendment that was adopted by the body to go from two-parent notification to one-parent notification, and in that spirit, the body has adopted the Withem amendment and I appreciated the comments that were made by Senator Withem because I'm sure that his comments reflect the concerns of many of us who understand the basic idea of bringing families together and trying to discuss these issues, the issue of abortion between family members and trying to do that as a matter of state policy and that is, obviously, something that in our hearts I'm sure we would all like to see happen and, therefore, it causes a great deal of inner turmoil for me as it has for Senator Withem, I'm sure every one of us, to try to figure out how each one...how we are going to vote on a measure like this. This amendment that Senator Landis has brought to us was, I think, brought to the body by either myself or by Senator Landis a couple of years ago and I support it. I think that the issue is, as Senator Bernard-Stevens and others have said, you know, we're trying to bring families together but I think there is also a practical consideration to be looked at as well. Right now the way the bill is drafted, the individual, the young woman would have really just two options. One is to talk to a parent or notify a parent or go to court and again, I hate to remind the body that