

continue to oppose the legislation. What struggles within us, I think, all, as parents I think we have to view this legislation with the eye that obviously we want communication with our children, and that day, some time in the future, with my two young daughters reach the age that some situation may arise that they need to talk to me, I hope that they will feel the door is always open and will take advantage of it. And so you have this feeling as a parent that parents should know what their child is doing, and so there is an appeal to this bill, and the public has expressed that support, and that appeal has been felt by the public. But on the other side, as the Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee, I dealt with the other side of the coin, those distraught families, those families that have suffered through stressful, traumatic times, those nonperfect families that are much more prevalent in our society than any of us wish to admit or to see, but nevertheless is a reality. And so I struggled with these feelings and wasn't quite sure how I might come down on the legislation on Select File. Frankly, with the Hillman amendment adopted, and perhaps some other minor adjustments to the bill, I was certainly considering supporting the legislation, and may still contemplate it, depending upon how it finally is arrived at. But the Withem amendment concerns me. It seems to me the original amendment is valuable, that it said we should inform these young people of the situation, we should give them knowledge and information about how to deal with it, and then they can make their own choice. I guess some people simply don't want to provide the information, don't want to provide for that choice. I thought Senator Withem was right in the first place, and I'm concerned about restricting the information that is provided to these young people by giving them the opportunity to know how to proceed, not simply informing them of the situation, but giving them actual information that they can utilize to move forward and make their decision. So I guess I'm a bit concerned about the Withem amendment, it steps back from what I thought was a reasonable amendment to the bill, and other reasonable amendment to the bill make the bill itself reasonable. And I'm struggling with how to proceed with it. But I think this is a step backwards, and not approving the Hillman amendment was not a step forward. And so I'm still concerned about the legislation. But nevertheless it seems we're striving toward trying to make this a better bill. And I don't think the Withem amendment, at this point, does, I think the original Withem amendment did.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Labeledz.