

April 2, 1992

LB 78

doctor-patient relationship I have a problem. Then she goes on to say, though: I hope you will interject a note of conciliation between advocates of both positions. For so long we have been talking past each other. Perhaps both groups can collaborate on programs to prevent pregnancy in women who are not prepared to be mothers. I wonder what would be...what would happen if we had as comprehensive an educational program as we have with drug use prevention. I wrote her back and I said nothing would please me more than if I could interject a note of conciliation between advocates of both positions on the abortion issue. This LB 78 is Senator Labeledz's priority bill. However, what I've been speaking to all afternoon on bringing both sides together and taking a step forward for opening minds, to listening to new directions to go will be my highest priority as I serve in these days as a Legislature. I will continue to have problems with LB 78, but I will join Senator Landis and Senator Lindsay in recognizing a first step that I think of two sides coming together, a first step, for the most part, that has been a debate that has been the high road, that has been a debate of saying let's work together. For that, I commend all those senators who have spoken. I commend those senators who are opening their minds, who are saying, yes, I'm ready to listen, I'm ready to go and look at the heart of the problem and where that problem is. For that reason, I will support this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the Legislature. Let me try to identify what I think is an area of agreement that more than 25 of us share and more than 25 of us with people from both sides of the issue. Senator Hillman and Senator Rasmussen have identified a mechanism to begin a long overlooked dialogue. The mechanism that's suggested is a commission, a commission headed by the Department of Health as the lead agency, a commission with as its burdens or tasks the search for solutions to why women seek abortions so that perhaps alternatives can be provided or so that we can lessen the social conditions which bring them to that pass. If you listen to the debate around this room, those provisions are not in controversy. Many of us would do that. I suggest that as we move through this discussion we do not overlook that we seem to have found a piece to the puzzle that many of us agree to, Senator Hillman, Senator Rasmussen, Senator Bohlke, Senator Lindsay and myself. There remain provisions around this issue