

Lindsay-Landis amendment, we support the Bernard-Stevens amendment and go home.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Beutler has guests seated under the south balcony, Bruce Eberly with the Federal Department of Transportation. He's an old classmate of Senator Beutler. Would Mr. Eberly please stand and the Legislature could recognize you. Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I rise again to express my opposition to the amendment. Again, I reiterate, I appreciate where it's coming from, but I want the opportunity for us to vote on Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment. I think it does exactly what he just talked about. It gives us an opportunity to say we recognize that there...this law right now has been declared unconstitutional and there's a question about that that will be addressed through the Supreme Court. We should get an answer over the summer and that we ought to wait until we get that decision before we proceed with this discussion. I want to return to what I was talking about because I want to keep us focused on the concept of the commission or an effort to try and pull people together on those things that they can't agree upon, to pull us together to try and address the circumstances that lead to unwanted pregnancies and abortions and the kinds of things that we can do to minimize that happening. And one of the things I was talking about is the whole issue of what is good counseling, and that is critical and relevant to LB 78 because we're talking about the kind of information, the kind of counseling that should be given to women that are facing a crisis pregnancy. I talked a little bit last time I spoke, which seems like a long time ago, about who those counselors should be and the Psychological Association, as well as others, recognizes that it ought to be people who do have no interest in swaying the person one way or the other but have strong interests in helping the person make a good decision and, therefore, they cannot be people who have strong feelings against abortion nor can they be people who have strong feelings against young people having babies. So I want to move on then and talk about what are the goals of good counseling and what should happen. First of all, the goal should be to mobilize the young...the woman's coping skills; second of all, to provide the information, referrals and emotional support needed to reach and implement an informed decision about the pregnancy; third, to help the woman make a final fully-integrated decision with the least amount of regret; and, finally, insofar as possible, to