

Department of Health shall also identify agencies and facilities that are appropriately geographically dispersed to maintain a supply of materials which may be given to the woman in person. In summary, I want to reemphasize one of the reasons this amendment is a better approach to providing access to information concerning pregnancy. By statute, the Department of Health was established to have general supervision and control over matters relating to public health and sanitation--public health, general supervision of public health. Certainly information concerning pregnancy is an issue of public health. If we are to mandate public health information that a woman must receive, is it not logical that the Nebraska Department of Health be a leader in providing that information. Recently, a number of us made commitments to truly listen to one another and to consider new approaches in seeking ways to reduce the number of abortions--a common goal shared by all 49. I ask you to consider this approach. More than anything, I plead with you to make an independent decision. From these Chambers we have generated the idea of a mandated 800 number, an idea that provides, in my opinion, a better method to guaranteeing that individuals seeking information will be able to get it easily and at no cost to the individual. During our last debate, I stated we had a unique opportunity. Again today I believe we have another opportunity to put action to our words. That action is pushing a green light. Our words have been we want to provide good information and have a 24-hour waiting period. This amendment does just that and, on a final footnote, the ideas embraced in this amendment come from your fellow senators, a new approach, a new chance at helping to reduce abortions and I hope a new opportunity for senators to ensure that we are all pro-health and pro-information. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. I'll now recognize Senator Lindsay, followed by Senators Rasmussen and Day. Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Madam President. Before I get into the bill or the amendment itself, let me first say for the record that I have worked with Senator Bohlke. I believe Senator Bohlke is very sincere in her attempts to find some middle ground, to find some reasonable solutions to a very divisive issue, a very divisive problem, and I do commend her for those efforts. With that stated though, I must rise in opposition to the amendment for a variety of reasons. The first one I guess, if I could ask Senator Bohlke a question.