

SENATOR DAY: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, I will yield my time to Senator Rasmussen.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, thank you, Senator Day. A couple of things, and some of it is what Senator Landis has already talked about. The difficult thing as we attempt to discuss this and we make an effort to be logical is that there are often other agendas that are more important to people than really getting at good information to women in a timely fashion. There was some talk the other night of the male/female agenda and that didn't go very far and I'm not going to try and bring it up again, other than to say that it is often an undercurrent that makes the discussion difficult to have, that raises emotional reactions of resistance to an attempt to be controlled or at least the perception that we are...there is an attempt to have government, if not men, control women. The underlying message there is that...that women can't make good decisions, that need to have people define very specifically what they can and cannot do and need to try and tell them what kind of actions they should take, even in...faced with the most serious....And they're constantly and perhaps, I don't want to pursue it too far because I'm learning more and more how subtle that agenda often is and it's often so subtle that we do not realize that we're promoting it as we try and discuss this issue. The other agenda out there is that, well, we're really not trying to get good information to women but we're trying to restrict, obstruct, prevent abortion at all cost. And when that becomes a prevailing agenda then we begin to set up road mines in legislation that accomplish that agenda. They don't accomplish getting good information to women because the fact of the matter is those strategies...those strategies that people would use to stop women from having abortions, the harassment, the stalking, the yelling, the screaming, the guilt trips, those kinds of things have been, in essence, that which has blocked information to women. They have made it difficult for women to walk in to any public health facility, to any physician's office and get that kind of information. They have made it very difficult to be public and therefore, far too often women are faced with making these decisions in isolation of others as well as good information. But it is those very strategies that are done in the name of doing whatever to restrict abortion that have created the problem of not being able to get to