

## Remarks to the Aurora City Council, October 23, 2007

I'm Eric Scheidler and I live at 839 Garfield Avenue in Aurora.

I'd like to tell you a story about my daughter Liza Jane. Liza is the oldest of my six daughters and she'll turn twelve in two weeks. Liza is pictured here with her baby sister, Sarah.

One day this past spring, my wife April noticed Liza was limping around the house after playing in the back yard. Now, Liza doesn't like to be the center of attention, and she tried to shrug it off, but April could tell Liza was really in pain.

With a little coaxing, Liza admitted that her left knee was hurting very badly, and April found a little lump on the inside of her calf. When it was still bothering her a few days later, we decided to take her to the doctor.

X-rays revealed a growth on Liza's tibia, but the doctor was unsure how to diagnose it. She referred us to an orthopedic surgeon who diagnosed Liza to have an osteochondroma—a kind of bone tumor—that would have to be removed.

A few weeks later at the outpatient surgical center, I had to sign consent forms for both the surgery and the anaesthesia, next-of-kin forms should they need to contact someone besides April and me, and a form designating who could call the center and receive an update on the surgery.

When the surgery was over, Liza was quite miserable, but didn't want to admit it or let us see that she was crying. The nurse told us that's how girls are: while boys come out of anesthesia punching; girls come out crying.

We sat with Liza in the recovery room as the anesthesia wore off, and finally we were able to take her home. Today she's fully recovered, and I'm thankful her mother saw that something was wrong back in May and pressed her on it.

Even in a happy family, children don't always want to talk to their parents about their problems. But children need their parents, as nearly every institution in our society recognizes.

As a father of six girls and two teenage boys, I'm asking you to do what you can, as a City Council, to uphold that wisdom and pass a parental notice ordinance that will help to ensure parents and their children talk about urgent medical issues with lifelong consequences.

As a father who has sat there in a recovery room with his daughter, it horrifies me to think of a young girl Liza's age or just a little older sitting in one of those thirteen recovery rooms over there at Planned Parenthood, recovering from an abortion all by herself.