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MEH

12/1 (Thurs AM)

With speculation that the U.S. Supreme Court's conservative majority might overturn the nationwide right to abortion, an Arkansas lawmaker is reiterating his plan to introduce a Texas-style abortion bill next week. Governor Asa Hutchinson has said he wants a special session that begins next Tuesday to be focused primarily on cutting the state's income tax. He has also said the legislature should wait for the high court to rule after hearing oral arguments yesterday (Wed) on a Mississippi law. But Senator Jason Rapert, a Republican of Conway, says Hutchinson should get back anti-abortion legislation now.

News16 0:25 "...meet next week."

Rapert says he's confident he has the needed two-thirds support from lawmakers to consider legislation not included in the governor's call for a session.

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An abortion opponent in the Arkansas Legislature says he's encouraged by oral arguments heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. Senator Jason Rapert, a Republican of Conway, suggested liberal justices were aggressive against newer conservative justices, which could be indicative of an eventual ruling.

News17 0:17 "...in our country."

Rapert said he believes the nationwide right to abortion will come to an end, leaving it up to each state to decide whether the procedure is legally available. In an interview, he reiterated plans to introduce a Texas-style abortion ban during a special session of the legislature that begins next week. Governor Asa Hutchinson has encouraged lawmakers to wait until the Supreme Court issues a ruling and says he will not include the issue on his legislative call. But Rapert says he has the two-thirds support needed to bring outside measures for consideration.