

about, and which there has not been enough debate of, are the kinds of testimony before the Minnesota court that ruled their parental notification statute unconstitutional. This is before the 8th Circuit reversed. The kind of evidence, for example, by all of the health professionals before the court who concluded that the parental notification law did nothing for family communications. One of those testifiers, Dr. Jane Hodgson concluded, I honestly think there is no benefit whatsoever. The law created nothing but problems for teenagers and their parents. Dr. Steven Butzer in that same trial on this law that has been so specifically written for us today said, acknowledgement of adolescents pregnancy or abortions was inadvertently communicated to one or both of the parents, the effect of the communication and the relationship was almost universally negative, meaning the relationship deteriorated, did not improve. Paula Went, a counsellor who has counseled 3,000 minors on this very troubling situation said that the law did not promote family integrity or communication; the law, if anything, was disruptive and had a negative impact on families. The Chair says we've talked enough. I say we haven't, we just haven't been talking about the most important things. In 1981 Alan Guttmacher Institute did a study of teenagers and asked whether or not, what they would do in the event they were required to notify? Well most of them said, we already would notify our parents. As a matter of fact, in an '87 article in the Journal of Public Health in Minnesota 60 to 65 percent of kids already told their parents without the law, didn't need the law because the law, of course, is a very blunt instrument in trying to force family relations. The majority of kids tell their parents and the younger they are, the more likely they are to tell their parents. On the other hand, it's true, a number of them didn't tell their parents, said that they would not notify their parents and then asked what would they do if they wouldn't notify their parents? About half of them said, I would rather than notify my parents and get a legal abortion said, I will go out and get an illegal abortion, not the least of which is the story that comes to us just yesterday on C & N in which a young girl in a state with a parental notification statute died because rather than go through the judicial bypass, she sought out an illegal abortion and died as a result. Now it's true some kids said rather than tell my parents and ask for an abortion and a notification, I would carry the child to term and I think that is why the proponents support this bill. But for every one of those, one out of four said they would leave home. Is that a great result? Only 9 percent said rather than notify,