

stop debate is appropriate. It may well be that you and I have talked this issue via the amendment process for the last two and a half hours but nonetheless, points that need to be made have yet to be made and it is for that reason that I would rise to oppose vehemently our suspension of the rules to stop debate. I personally have been troubled by this issue because I recognize how the question of abortion is a divisive question in our society and how taxpayers themselves are of several minds concerning the use of tax funds for abortion. On the other hand, I do know that all of us have to abide decisions made by our elected representatives concerning the use of tax dollars some of which we will not like but that is inherent in a democratic society. What strikes me in the main about this question about which we are asked to cease debate is the fact that we have not talked about the epidemic that is occurring in society today, an epidemic that could strike in my own family and that is the epidemic of teenage pregnancy. One out of ten teenage women will become pregnant this year and what we do as we continue to cut back and curtail discussion and deliberation on abortion is we continue to countenance this epidemic in society. Now abortion itself ought not to be an alternate to contraception, nor to self-restraint but the truth of the matter is my seventeen year old son and my twelve year old daughter are vulnerable to the ways of the flesh and these may be children who cause a girl to become pregnant, my seventeen year old boy, or who do become pregnant in their own right, my twelve year old daughter. We are talking here about ceasing insurance coverage to public employees. Now it may well be that the only kind of public employees that you and I have in mind are women in their twenties and early thirties who are the wives of somebody but we have to appreciate that we are also talking about family coverage. We have men and women who are in their forties and in their fifties and they have teenage children in their home who likewise would be covered by the insurance policies that are state rights, or our county government rights, or our school board's right, or our NRDs right or frankly, anyone who receives public funds rights and keeps. Now it seems to me for us to cease debate on what clearly is the greatest, one of the greatest issues in society today and that very simply is teenage sexuality and that very simply is the fact that our young people, one out of ten, one out of ten teenagers will become pregnant is wrong. This is an issue that requires a greatest deliberation on our part. It is not an issue that we should run away from out of fear, out of fear of voters wrath or voters disapproval but, in fact, you and I have got to discuss it. My seventeen year old son is the editor of the high school newspaper at Central High School in Omaha and he solicited an advertisement from Planned Parenthood which said simply, "February 14 is Love Carefully Day." It said, "If you are not ready to be a parent, be