

is a good thing and that is one of the reasons why I support the Haberman amendment and it gets back very simply to the problem that exists in increasing numbers in our society and that problem very simply is that our young children are sexually active and our young children are not taking adequate precautions to prevent inception, to prevent fertilization and our young children are becoming more and more... more and more of our young children are becoming pregnant. This is from a September article in Newsweek magazine that deals with the subject of teenage pregnancy. The latest figures in a highly respected news study by Johns Hopkins University professor, Melvin Zelnik and John F. Kantner indicate that nearly 50% of the nation's 10.3 million young women age 15 to 19 have had premarital sex. The percentage has nearly doubled since 1971. One disturbing consequence of this advanced sexuality is that teenage pregnancies are epidemic. One million teenage girls, one out of every ten, get pregnant each year. Statistics in the 1977 study show that 600,000 unwed teenagers were giving birth each year with the sharpest increase among those under 14. Venereal disease is rampant among adolescents accounting for 25% of the one million reported gonorrhea cases every year. Now what we do today is we again put clamps on the abortion practice because we want nothing to do with human sexuality and the products and the fruits thereof, and the more we continue to be repressive with human sexuality and the products thereof in the name of morality, in the name of virtue, and in the name of every other good object, the more we continue to put in the closet what is a genuine problem to the young people in our society and I think that you and I as legislators have a responsibility to face this issue up front and to deal with it very honestly. Now as Senator Marsh and Senator Haberman pointed out in their colloquy a little bit ago, there really is no public fund issue involved here because the amount of public dollars that go to provide abortion coverage in group insurance programs either are negligible or nonexistent. So really this piece of legislation has little to do, little if anything to do, frankly, with the expenditure of public dollars for abortion coverage but has a lot to do again with its very symbolic issue that is dividing our society so dramatically and that is who can and who cannot obtain an abortion. I am not an advocate of abortion. I don't believe that abortion is an alternative to contraception. I don't believe that abortion is a legitimate alternative to self-restraint or discipline but I don't want to take an action that continues to put the lid on, so to speak, our dialogue and our development of measures and matters that will deal with human sexuality and what is happening. There are many young people's lives that are being tormented because of unwanted pregnancies and it seems