

amendment last week, even though I caught a little flak for that. From the point of view I'd like to be able to vote for LB 769, eventually, it seems strange this bill comes up and every time it comes along it's late in the afternoon, nobody is paying attention, maybe a few are, but we seem to catch it when we're all a little weary of the day. But here is what I'd like to say and why I'm going to vote against the bracket, because I think we need to talk about this whole thing. I'm interested in the amendment that Senator Schimek and Bernard-Stevens brought. I have had passed out to you two pieces of reading material which I hope that you'll keep and read at your leisure, one in particular, Sex Respect, A New Program for Teens, because that is what I want to talk about and why I think we need 769 and why we need...whether it's constitutional or not, we need to keep talking about the real problem, which is teenage pregnancy. This pressure that teenagers feel these days to have sex before they're a senior in high school, or whatever, is we are failing our teenagers as a society when we allow that to continue without trying to help them find alternatives. We need to let children be children. One of the statistics that really concerns me about...in the fiscal note on this particular bill, maybe you didn't read it. In the year...in the fiscal year 1987, 1,759 women under the age of 19 had abortions in Nebraska. What a sad statistic. We failed them, we didn't find a way for them to have the baby and take care of it. As a society I believe strongly we need to address this problem now and the Legislature actually cannot solve it. It takes pro-life, pro-choice, pro-nothing people, people who'd like to sweep the problem under the rug and not think about it. It takes all of us to sit down and talk about the problem and come together and encourage and involve teenagers in those discussions to see why they feel that they need to do this when they're just teenagers. It's a bad situation when our young women, in their formative years, are having abortions and babies when they should be enjoying high school proms, whatever, without those problems. We need to involve teenagers who maybe have a drug problem and who come from a broken home and have parents who could care less about them, and we need to involve teenagers who are from comfortable homes, and who have caring parents, but for one reason or another, they feel this pressure, they have to prove that they can keep up with the crowd. As I said before, the Legislature cannot solve it. People have to solve it. I think that three things have hurt women badly in the last 30 years, pornographic literature and films, no-fault divorce, and abortion on demand, because we have lost that respect that we