

a religious person, and sometimes counselors and therapists take advantage of young people. So, a bill like this could provide a vehicle for dealing with all of these matters that we're talking about now, at least from the standpoint of discussion. But I think it would be advisable to bracket this bill and not make a bad situation worse by simply enacting a piece of legislation so people can say we scored a political victory. We don't want to score a political victory at the expense of our children. So I'm going to support Senator Lynch's motion to bracket.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Nelson, Senator Bernard-Stevens, and Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President and members of the body, I, too, rise in support of bracketing of this bill. And I guess I do appreciate the opportunity, however, that this bill has allowed us to talk about some of what I think are even more critical issues than notification. I began talking, a little while ago, about the problem with teenage pregnancies and how our school systems haven't always been able to address the problems that these teenagers have. You know in past years it hasn't been unusual for young women to have to leave their hometowns to go somewhere else in shame and have their babies, and it hasn't been unusual for, at the same time, sometimes the young men in that town to be able to stay in school and to be able to participate on the basketball team, or the football team, or to take part in the class play, whatever, or sometimes they, too, have been asked to leave the school. So there have been different...differing amounts of ways of addressing the teenage pregnancy problem. I think the article that Senator Crosby passed out, about the pregnant valedictorian and how a school disallowed an article to be printed about that student, and yet she was going to be allowed to speak at graduation. Well, the article, which was written by a student, was marvelous and it told about the odds that this straight A student had overcome in spite of the fact that she...her mother died and she was shuffled around among relatives and so forth. That's a story that I think deserves to be told. It would also be cost-effective in the long run if we address the problems of educating our teenagers. In 1985, there were 203 teenagers who gave birth in Lincoln. And national statistics, from the Children's Defense Fund, indicate that 80 percent of mothers who gave birth before age 17 never completed high school, 80 percent of those teenage mothers never completed high school, and 90 percent are unemployed. Those are national figures, they're