

amends to refine to get around that problem, and the problem is this, that the evidence before the Judiciary Committee and the evidence that is relatively clear in this area is when a family is notified of that kind of information, when out of the blue comes a notification that incest has occurred in the family, the chance of violence against the girl is demonstrable and increases considerably. In fact, that fact of violence against this pregnant teenager is a measure greater than the norm which is that pregnant women have a standard of violence against them which is greater than if they were not pregnant. Domestic situations, families, are more likely to have violence when the...in this case, the teenager or the woman is pregnant than when not, and if the teenager informs the family through this parental notification system of incest in the family, the violence quotient goes up again. The Judiciary Committee had evidence of that fact. It went unrefuted. It was by Dr. Ann Coyne before the Judiciary Committee. Now because of that body of evidence, it seems to me, I am guessing because I am not on the committee, the Judiciary Committee said, well, gosh, that really seems antithetical to the goal of the bill, which is to allow for informed consent and for better family relations. I mean, we are inviting, we know we are inviting violence in this circumstance. That is counterproductive. Let's find a way around it. Well, we will allow the girl to make a declaration, a declaration that the pregnancy is the result of sexual abuse, and then she can short-circuit the process. We can get around the problem in that case by creating an exception, if you will. Senator Smith's amendment refines that process by saying, you know, if you are going to do this, teenager, and if you are going to use this mechanism, remember that I am a health care professional and there is no exception in our child abuse statutes or our sexual abuse statutes under which I have a professional duty and I have to go forward and notify the public officials. Young woman, you need to know that when you get done making this declaration to me, I have got to tell the proper authorities. Well, that is appropriate for the young person to know, but remember that it simply puts us back to square one, one of two things, either that the woman won't want to use that situation, or, number two, that, in fact, information will occur, it will get back to the family, and the family will have to deal with that information and, perhaps, have the experience of violence, perhaps have the experience of the antisocial behavior that can occur in the dysfunctional family.

PRESIDENT: One minute.