

it is an important fact to keep in mind. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Bernard-Stevens, please, followed by Senator Nelson. Senator Nelson, please.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I have in front of me, and I think a lot of us do pay attention to some of the information, The Council of State Governments and they sum up all of the legislation. The whole problem of this of parental notification, there is absolutely nothing wrong with it if it is a family that is loving and a functional family and so on, which, incidentally, I think in Minnesota's statistics showed, that in that case, 75 percent of the parents were...actually 78 percent were advised, but in the others, and that is the ones that we must be concerned about, background, parental consent, and abortion, it will increase the number of children born to teenage mothers. For example, Minnesota experienced a 38 percent increase in the birthrate among 15 and 16-year olds since its parental notification law took effect. As of January, 1988, 35 states, including, so on and so forth, have some type, and there are a lot of different definitions, a lot of different ideas, different statutes, and I don't think that any of those are going to change anyone's mind. It is still up to that family and that doctor and I see this as the testimony in front of the Judiciary Committee. Again, Dr. Ann Coyne happens to be a member of the Catholic faith, Professor of Social Work at UN-O. Studies show that pregnant teenagers notify their parents; about 20 to 25 percent do not, for good reasons, and it is the problem of the dysfunctional family. Just about three days ago I had lunch with the school administrators in Kearney, Nebraska. The school administrator said that they had had an increase in the last four years in special ed, maybe it would be five years, maybe, of 74 percent, and a lot of that is brought on by, again, dysfunctional families, alcohol, drug abuse, very, very alarming. Also the Lincoln Public Schools have spoken on that same number and that same terms, and if there was anything in here that I felt that would help the problem of teenage pregnancies or would help our society, would help with the welfare, and would help with the many other problems and concerns, I certainly would be for this parental notification. But parental notification simply just delays that girl. It may delay it a month or six weeks, which, as we all know, again makes it somewhat of a higher risk, and I just...there is nothing wrong with my parents or any other parents knowing it, but let's keep it within reason. When we