

through...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...childbirth. Adolescent mothers are more likely to be premature, to have low birth weight babies. It's a major cause of infant mortality, serious childhood illness, birth injury, neurological defects including mental retardation. In other words, forcing kids to take their pregnancies to term means more of those situations, not less. Children of adolescent parents suffer educational disadvantage, generally as a rule have a lower IQ in achievement scores. They are more likely to repeat one grade. Mothers who give birth before the age of 18 are less likely to graduate from high school and less likely to go on to college. Two-thirds of families headed by women whose first birth come before 20, live before the poverty line. In other words, forcing kids to carry their pregnancies to terms has in many cases disaster effects, disastrous effects on the mother and on the child. The law should not be the instrument by which we compel these, in some cases, life-threatening situations to occur against individuals of tender years...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...that, in fact, this is not something that the law can do easily. We need to talk more, not less. I support the motion to overrule the Chair.

PRESIDENT: The vote is to override the Chair. If you vote yes, you're voting to continue the debate on the motion to reconsider. If you sustain the Chair, it's a vote to proceed to a vote on ceasing debate. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 6 ayes, 23 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to overrule the Chair.

PRESIDENT: Okay, the Chair is not overruled, therefore, we go to proceeding on a vote to cease debate. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye...Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I believe there is a motion.

CLERK: Senator, you did not vote with the prevailing side.