

under the measure. Dr. Coyne goes on to say I am anxious to reduce the perceived need for abortion by women and girls who find themselves with problem pregnancies, but I believe that we need to enact public policies that remove the problem from problem pregnancies that do occur, and, of course, to reduce the number of unplanned pregnancies that could become or to be considered problematical, the best contraceptive is the future. I am not so sure we are doing particularly well by that score. It seems to me a place where we could have rich areas of agreement if we were working together. It seems to me that as I hear the concerns of people on the floor on both sides of this, if we were to spend our time thinking about ways of ensuring a high self-esteem in teenage girls, excellent educational opportunities, information about the risks of pregnancy, it seems to me that we could try to avoid this from ever occurring, and then we wouldn't have the disagreement that we have today. It is best, it seems to me, to go after the areas where we do agree and could make a plan to come up with options that would make sense and then make irrelevant the whole question of abortion. Reverend Sandra King, the clergyman or clergywoman in the Presbyterian Church, rather, ordained and a family counselor spoke to the Judiciary Committee about the effect of parental notification on family relations. She, as a counselor, before becoming a clergy member, by the way, counseled women and children who had been abused. In assessing LB 769 as a good tool to assist family relationships and teenagers and parents to work together to solve a problem, Reverend King concludes that this comes far too late in the process. We are involved on a daily basis in the clergy at establishing good family relationships. At this point, meaning notification of the pregnancy, if a young person does not feel that they can take a concern like this to their parents, there is not the possibility for good communication and good relationship, and that is why we have social service agencies to assist. Another individual who spoke was Shirley Marsh, representing a collection of 31 religious organizations that were not only Christian but Jewish and faiths who together wanted to safeguard the option of legal abortion. What this testimony indicated was that there would be a negative effect on the family rather than a positive effect, that legislation to support the family should occur before the use of parental notification. Among the most touching of the speakers before the Judiciary Committee was Bobbe McGee. She says I grew up in what has been described in this room as a dysfunctional family, taking this out of the area of the statistic and making it into a real life situation. What