

individual. This certainly gives me reason to pause. Among the people we are talking about under LB 769, however, are adolescents. Adolescents are more at risk of death because of childbirth than are older women. You might think that the younger woman would be stronger, would be in better health but, in fact, adolescents are two and a half times more likely to die from childbirth than are women from the ages of 20 to 24. So the very women that we are trying to discourage from abortion and to make sure that they don't get them, not only are we asking for a procedure which is 13 times more dangerous than abortion, but we increase from there their risk because they are among the most vulnerable for complications and for death as a result of the childbirth that we wish to force upon them. Pregnant adolescents not only have a higher likelihood of death than older women who might undergo a childbirth, but they have a variety of other very serious medical complications which they are more likely to have than are other women. They are likely to have a higher incidence of toxemia, high blood pressure with kidney and liver involvement and, perhaps, failure, nutritional deficiencies, prolonged labor, miscarriage, and as I said before, death. The children of adolescent mothers, those which we are intending to force those adolescent mothers to have and to carry to term are twice as likely to die in infancy as are those who are born of women who are in their twenties. And those children are more likely to die in infancy than the women in their forties, which is a high-risk group of women. Children of adolescent mothers are more likely to be premature and of low birth weight. Low birth weight is related to a number of major problems, including not only infant mortality but serious childhood illness, birth injury, neurological defect, including mental retardation. So that one of the real goals of this measure is to force not only a more dangerous procedure that puts the young girl at a greater physical risk to her health but it is also the case that instead of having a child later in life if we force the child to have one at that point, the child who is the result of that pregnancy is more likely to ser...to experience not only infant mortality but a wide range of serious debilitating disabilities, disabilities, by the way, which are the subject of LB 588. Children of adolescent parents, as opposed to older parents, suffer educational disadvantage. They tend to have lower IQs, lower achievement scores and are far more likely to repeat one grade. Not only does it have an effect then on the life of the child but the mother's life is indelibly affected as well. Women who give birth before 18 are only likely...half as likely to graduate from high school than