

those who postpone their childbearing until after the age of 20. So that the effects of this decision, the effects of forcing, if we can, enough obstacles in the way of a young girl to force her to carry a child to term, result in not only risk to her and her health and her long life, we also create and encourage the birth of a group of children who have a larger number of serious developmental disabilities and IQ limitations and retardation but, in addition then, keep the woman from having the kind of educational experiences which will arm her for strong employment and the ability to care for a family when she chooses to have one, to earn a living and to be a responsible member of society. Women who delay their childbearing until their twenties are four to five times more likely to attend and finish college than those who become mothers in their teens. And the net effect then of LB 769 is to force young women to have abortions...I'm sorry to have children, to carry their fetuses to term and then to suffer the consequences of affecting their lives by putting them at home caring for a child, leaving school, not going to college, limiting their opportunities in life. Two-thirds of families headed by women whose first birth had come before the age of 20 live below the poverty limit. In the attempt to force these girls to carry their children to term, we are consigning them, statistically anyway, to a far greater likelihood of a life in poverty without educational opportunity. There are, in other words, grave consequences with the kind of results that are actually desired in LB 769. Those restrictions are meant, basically, to create obstacles and to coerce girls to carrying their pregnancies to term. There are very vulnerable circumstances out there, one of which, which occurred that is well documented is the story of Lisa, five years old. Her father's car pulls up in the driveway, Lisa runs to meet him, pulling him in the backyard to see where she's been playing. She shows him her source of joy. The father, on the other hand, becomes tense. He gazes, he looks at the house, there's mud on the faucet. His big hands pick up the water hose, folds the water hose, and although she tries to beg for forgiveness, he takes...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...one hand on the rubber hose and the other to hold her with which to beat her five times with the doubled length of hose, bringing welts to her legs. Later, Lisa was 17, she was pregnant, didn't want to be pregnant, didn't know what her father would do to her, to the boy, even to her mother. She