

Massachusetts and she says, I basically believe that a decision like this should be made between a doctor and the young lady and that the courts should not be involved at all. If they thought they could communicate with their parents, they would, and this is a decision they have made knowing the relationship they have with their parents and knowing what reactions their parents might have. Rebecca Stone of the Center for Population Options also has expressed concern for the 23 percent. If the threat of telling parents is going to cause kids to get information from people who don't have it or to try and do something to themselves just to avoid telling their parents, then those are not the kinds of laws we want to pass if we care about...if all we care about is helping teenagers. And the writer of this letter goes on to say that his personal concern is not strictly whether teenage girls have the same constitutional rights as adult women to make their own decisions about abortion, but rather as a society we fully appreciate their plight and, secondly, that we respond with appropriate compassion and assistance. He says, I honestly do not believe that any sane person in America considers abortion to be all that great. The best we can do is to be grateful that if it is to occur, it can be accomplished safely. It is a most difficult moral dilemma to be placed in a position of terminating the life of the unborn. This burden is no less traumatic than for our teenagers who face this crisis all too often with little or no support while we have an adult population which continues to promiscuously create and destroy life on demand. This is reprehensible but can this kind of behavior be successfully legislated against? My gut reaction still remains that we would all be better served...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...if we placed our resources behind progressive legislation that would in time make the abortion issue obsolete rather than placing additional hardship on those who need our support much sooner in their life pilgrimage. A much fairer and more palatable approach to facilitating parental involvement might be to request physicians not only to provide informed information about abortion, giving birth and abortion alternatives to their patients but also to solicit parental involvement to the fullest degree possible that the patient can endure. As a clinician, and this man is a psychologist educator, as a clinician, my judgment is that however well meaning the intent of a parental consent law may be, even with the judicial bypass system, it places the 23 percent, 92,000,