

an overall reduction in teen pregnancy and birth, not just teen abortion, is a very impressive statistic. Nebraska currently makes no provision for parental knowledge, reflection time, discussion or consent regarding their child's abortion decisions. Without the advice and counsel of their parents, without the...proper medical history often needed by teenagers without the love and guidance of family members, children today are often at risk of exploitations. The requirement of parental notification is a very minimal requirement. Parents of minors are notified of much less major incidences such as accidents or illnesses at school, failing grades or misbehavior. Furthermore, the law of informed consent requires parental approval before any medical or surgical procedure can be performed on a minor. In one critical medical procedure, however, parents in Nebraska are denied any role whatsoever, even their right to know. That is the abortion decision. Physically, minors who abort their first pregnancy encounter greater risks of complications in future pregnancies. Psychologically, minors are much more susceptible than older women to postabortion syndrome including anxiety, depression, guilt and regret. And with abortions becoming more common at earlier stages, ages, teens run the risk of resorting to abortion more than once before moving out of their teen years. The Legislature has recognized time and time again that it has a legitimate role in regulating the activities of young people. Alcohol cannot be purchased by anyone under the age of 21. A person must be 16 years of age to obtain a license to drive. A minor under age 17 cannot get married without parental consent and a student is required to attend school until age 16. Yet we allow a child to obtain an abortion without even telling one of her parents. The interest which the state will protect with this legislation includes, number one, protection of the minor from her own imprudent decision, number two, protection of the family as a viable unit in society, protection of parental rights of authority over their minor children and number four, and lastly, protection of the minor's health by enabling parents to supply essential medical information to the physician performing the abortion and allow parents to ensure that their daughter receives appropriate follow-up medical care. As U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stewart (phonetic) has stated, there can be little doubt, and this is from the U.S. Supreme Court Justice, there can be little doubt that the state furthers a...constitutionally permissible end by encouraging an unmarried pregnant minor to seek the help and advice of her parents in making the very important decision whether or not to bear a