

includes Nebraska. For the first five years that the Minnesota law was in effect, the abortion rate among teenagers in that state dropped by over one-third. Nebraska currently makes no provisions for parental knowledge, for 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, without the love and guidance of family members, children today are often at risk of exploitation. The requirement of the amendment on LB 1241E is a very minimal requirement. Parents of minors are notified of much less major incidents, such as accidents, as Senator Schimek also said, or illnesses at school, failing grades or misbehaviors. Furthermore, the law or 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, even their right to know. That is the abortion decision. I have in front of me, I mentioned this before, close to 20,000 signatures from all over the State of Nebraska, and these people agree with me and, believe me, they are from all over, not just the City of Omaha or the City of Lincoln. I have many letters in this morning. My office received many calls from all over the state saying how disappointed they were that, at least, this year one bill, parental notification, was not passed or not advanced. The Legislature has recognized from...time and time again that it has a legitimate role in regulating the activities of young people. We cannot...they cannot purchase alcohol 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. I think I also mentioned, oh, way back last year sometime, of the letters that I received from parents that were very upset when their daughter obtained an abortion, 14, 15, 16, 17 years old, regardless what age, they were still minors, and on the way home from Omaha to places in South Dakota, in the western part of the state, there were complications set in where the girl needed a D and C, or blood transfusion. She was hemorrhaging, and they had to take her to a hospital, and that happened not just once, several times, and that girl had to have notification from her parents before they could give any blood transfusion or before they could do a D and C, and because it was an incomplete abortion. How would you feel if your daughter, if you got a call some night as a parent or as a grandparent, saying that your granddaughter, or your daughter was in a hospital and needed immediate medical