

that there will be good communication where there has never been good communication before. It also assumes that if children who are abused tell, they will be helped. I wish that that was true, but we know from many experiences that when a child who is abused tells, it is most likely that they will be abused even more. We talk about parental rights, and although we would like parents to be involved, I would remind you that it appears that the Supreme Court rulings about the constitutionality of parental notification laws are not an affirmation of parental rights, but rather an affirmation of what the judges believe was in the best interest of young people faced with these situations. What does this amendment do? What is does is say that before any young person has an abortion, they must go through competent and thorough counseling. That counseling may be done by a variety of professionals, and we tried to be fairly inclusive with this list so that counseling would be accessible in all parts of Nebraska. The amendment defines what kind of counseling must occur. It says that young people should be encouraged and advised to involve their parents in this decision-making process. It also says that they must look at all alternatives, and be aware and become informed about the resources that may assist them no matter what alternative they choose. It also says that the counseling should not be a coercion towards any one alternative, that the decision must ultimately be made by the young person. It also is clear that the young person can change their mind at any point in time, and that the effort is to try and give as much information to them as possible so that they can make a good decision. The amendment also requires that once this counseling has occurred, the young person must sign a form that indicates that all components of this counseling have occurred, and that that form must go to any physician who would be performing an abortion. This isn't a perfect system that we are proposing. In fact, the more that Senator Hillman and I talk about it, the more we see areas where we could strengthen it. I offer it today, again, not to do in LB 425, but to offer it as an alternative way to help our young people. We are attempting to make a decision about what the law should say about what young people can do when they are faced with an unwanted pregnancy, and while we, too, would like families to be cohesive and to stand strong together in the moment of crisis,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: ...the strategy that we would propose here,