

issues and especially in the area of prevention. Prevention to me is one of the keys in anything that we do that is health related and a lot of the things that we need to do in this state rather than taking care of things afterwards. Over and over we looked at the fact that we are building institutions for what we cannot afford because of taking care of things afterwards with the Department of Corrections. We are looking at treatment centers when it comes to alcoholism. We're looking at bills today that all deal and very expensively deal with the process that takes care of things afterwards that tries to look at a cure instead of prevention. Quite a few years ago I was fortunate enough to work with the Gering Police Department at home on a pilot project that was called the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team and this was before there was a drug czar and this was before you had a lot of the resources that you would like to have had in the schools from the state and federal level to look at prevention when it came to teens being involved in alcohol and drug abuse. It was exciting to work in a community and to see what you could do when you talked about being on the positive side of things rather than on the negative, things that you could do to prevent. People get very excited when you can sit down and talk about things that you can do that could help rather than try to take care of the harm that has been done afterwards. I would urge the body to seriously consider Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment and also this amendment to the amendment to look at how we could be proactive rather than reactive, to look how we could prevent some harm instead of taking care of some harm and to work together in looking at how we could best do that. To me, ideally, one of the things that could be very helpful today is if we would have the courage to suspend the rules and as a body spend the next eight hours looking at positive solutions to the problem of teen and unwanted pregnancies rather than dealing with legislation to address it, but look at ideas in things that we could work together collectively to come up and could help the situation. We seem to always be looking at things for the most part, how to take care of it afterwards and how we can fund the money, get the money to do that and the idea of prevention would be much more helpful. So again I would just ask you to seriously look at Senator Bernard-Stevens' resolution, my amendment to it and to think about where we are in the session this year, the work that needs to be done so far and to look at this process being continuing through the year and then could come back next year and address it I think on a much better plane and when we have the given time, we have the 90 days, and we would be able to