

support Senator Hillman's amendment and I'm going to read it. To Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment would be added this language. The Legislature should consider establishing a state task force with the Department of Health as the lead agency to address health issues, including adolescent pregnancies, that adversely affect adolescents. If we really as a Legislature were concerned about preventing problems, which is the best way to deal with the kind that we're talking about here, what she is recommending would without hesitation be adopted. But we all know that the abortion issue is a catchall political bucket. It has not been discussed at the federal level, it has not been discussed at the state level in any Legislature on the merits of the issue itself. We each will give our personal opinion and some will represent the view of a particular religion, a particular philosophy, a particular attitude toward health, a political position relative to privacy and things of that nature. My personal view is that people can spend all the time they want to arguing that an abortion is a sin, but they will never get me to vote that it's a crime. They will never get me to cast a vote against a woman's right to make a decision about one of the most intimate aspects of her being and her ultimate existence. We all know that, despite the well modulated tones in which the discussion has occurred thus far, underneath all this is a seething mass of lava similar to that of a volcano and it may or may not erupt during the eight hours that we're going to spend on this bill. I think the proponents of this piece of legislation have reconciled themselves to the fact that we're going to talk about it for eight hours, then they will try their cloture motion which I certainly hope will fail. But I want to mention specifically a couple of things that Senator Lindsay talked about. He had said that the 24-hour waiting period is in the bill so that a woman could make this decision without the heavy pressure that goes along with certain situations of this kind. That is a paraphrase, the best that I can make. I believe when a woman comes for an abortion she has already thought about it. She has already reached her decision. This is a piece of busybody, oppressive, meddling legislation designed to make it as difficult as possible for a woman to make what may be the most difficult decision that she'll have to make in her life. In Ireland, not long ago, a young woman had been impregnated as a result of rape. She made her way to England but the long arm of the Irish law could reach there and the court had ordered her to come back to Ireland without getting an abortion in England. Obedient as she was, respectful of a law which had no respect for her, she returned to Ireland without