

Bernard-Stevens' resolution. And what the amendment would do is to establish a state task force with the Department of Health as the lead agency to address health issues, including adolescent pregnancies that adversely affect adolescents. I bring this amendment because I think probably, number one, if you're looking at the issue and the main underlying issue here that we're looking at is abortions, and mentally I don't know what kind of a picture you conjure up when the word "abortion" is mentioned, but what I would like to have you look at in this instance is that, number one, abortions, you're dealing with females. The other thing that you're dealing with females of ages probably anywhere from, for the most part, probably 55 to 10 can be. What this particular amendment does is address adolescent females. A lot of us, my age included, and I think probably we took the median age of this body here, are getting a little bit on the elderly side, many of us do not have children at home anymore and we lose that connection, we lose that daily contact with young people. I think that's one of the most harmful things that can happen to a person as they're growing older is that loss of contact with young people. You're very quickly out of the mainstream. You do not know issues that are affecting our future generations. One of the things we can do with this resolution is to become, as a Legislature and as a state, closer, become closer and establish a closer contact with adolescents and especially adolescent women and what is it, the issues that they're facing that causes this problem. The purpose, of course, would be prevention. So I would ask you to think about this very carefully, mentally, if you would, the audience that we're looking at here are adolescent girls, young women, looking at a way that we can help them prevent, in some instances, what can be a very big mistake, a very harmful thing in their lives, change it drastically and, in some cases, really become a disaster; in others, they would be able to, with some support and help, be able to overcome it and go on to very productive lives. It's a very devastating, very traumatic time, and anything that we could do to prevent it and to keep in touch and learn more what it is we're dealing with, the only way you can do any problem solving is to recognize the problem and the elements that are in there and what people are going through. We can't all become young teenagers but we can assist them and look at some of the things they're facing and figure out how we can help them to become productive adults and avoid some of the heartaches that some of them are going to have in store for them. I would ask you to support my amendment to the David...Bernard David Stevens...Senator Bernard-Stevens...I wish