

continue whether they are legal or not. They did before when they were illegal, they will continue again if we eventually reach that point again. Let's do something about the reasons why women feel compelled to get abortions. Let's do something about domestic violence. I would far prefer, like Senator Hillman said earlier today, to spend all of this day and this evening working with Senator Crosby to do something about domestic violence, something that I know she wants to accomplish. Let's do something about poverty. That's the number one reason women give for getting abortions is the cost involved. Let's do something about inaccessible child care, child care that is too expensive. Let's do something about inaccessible and unaffordable health care. And let's do something about teen pregnancy. New Hampshire took this bold step, the legislators there, both pro-life and pro-choice, joined hands to do a major effort to address teen pregnancy in that state, and only together, only when those forces came together were they able to really do something significant about teen pregnancy in their state. It won't be easy to address these issues. It won't be easy to come up with these solutions and maybe...maybe that's one of the subtle reasons why we continue this debate on the legal status of abortion is because that's a heck of a lot easier to do. And we can feel like we're doing something when, in fact, we are doing very little, if anything, about changing the circumstances that lead women to abortion. I think it's time. Several people have mentioned it and I want to reiterate that it's time for all of us to pull together because it will take our combined energy, our combined resources, our combined passion to get something done about the issues that contribute to the incidence of abortion. I am asking you to seriously consider this amendment and the amendment that Senator Bernard-Stevens has presented to us. It offers us a tremendous opportunity to move in a very different direction, one that I think is far more productive than the one that we are going in right now. And I urge you to give consideration to both of these amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. To speak to the Rasmussen amendment, Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Mr. Speaker, members, I thank Senator Rasmussen, and as we have been discussing this this afternoon this really comes back to the point that I have been trying to make. Senator Lindsay questioned possibly our sincerity on these amendments and I want to say to him that I'm very sincere,