

said it very well. Bottom line is LB 78 continues to codify that women aren't competent, that they don't think things through, that they're impulsive, that they are flighty and, therefore, we have to pass regulations that force them by some time table that's going to magically make them be competent in this decision-making process. I see nothing, nothing in LB 78, that helps a woman make a good decision about her pregnancy and I would support that. I do not advocate, I do not want women to have abortions, but I do believe they are competent to make that decision themselves and, furthermore, I believe that they are full citizens of this country and are protected under the Constitution just as men are; that we have a right to privacy under the 14th Amendment just like men do, and that it is not necessary to relegate women to second class status in order to do something about abortion. It is possible to do something about the incidence of abortion, in fact, to dramatically do something about the incidence of abortion if we spend more time and energy on addressing the circumstances that lead to unwanted pregnancy, if we do more to support women in the process of making decisions and in the pregnancy itself, as well as during the child birth years. I'm sort of sorry in my amendment that I didn't put a quantitative factor in there that said not only are we going to, as a body, begin to address solutions to the circumstances leading to abortion, but that we're going to spend more time on that, more money on that, more energy on that, more collaboration and cooperation on that than we are in debating the legal status of abortion or continuing to attempt to do things that codify that women are incompetent or unable to make good decisions, that codify that women are something less than men in terms of citizens of this country. I hope that you will vote against this amendment. Give us a chance to vote on Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment to make a powerful statement that we are willing to begin to focus on how we can come together to truly make a difference about the incidence of abortion in this country and we can do that in a way that does not sacrifice the rights of women. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Madam President, members, July 8 was my first day in this Chamber. July 11 I received my first "A" letter and I'd like to read a part of it to you. This woman writes and says: I have tried to listen to and understand the position of those who oppose abortion. I support their right to advocate their cause, but when they seek to undermine the privacy of a