

first provision is there. The second one seeks to strengthen that which the body has just endorsed, which is the notion of a commission. The Hillman language which has been adopted to the Bernard-Stevens amendment says the Legislature shall consider making a task force. I suggest to you that the better course of action is, in fact, to take this step. Rather than considering it, let's do it. So take a look at the new language. The Legislature hereby establishes a state task force with the Department of Health as the lead agency to address health issues, including adolescent pregnancies that adversely affect adolescents. This next part of the language is a capitulation, a recapitulation, rather, of the Rasmussen amendment. It says the Legislature shall work with the state task force to find solutions for circumstances contributing to why women have abortions, and the last element says there is hereby appropriated \$5,000 to fund the work of the state task force. Resources may well be necessary. Fact finding may well be necessary and we are to think about actually putting some kind of resources at the disposal of such a task force. One of the things we need to take into account with this amendment is the need to step forward to really attempting to do the spade work with respect to finding solutions to the reasons that women have abortions and to coming up with options other than an abortion. By the way, I think that in the vote that was just taken, the 24 to 9 vote, those 9 votes against the adoption of the amendment were not against the idea of a commission. They were not against the idea of studying and locating solutions that can keep women from falling into the position of feeling that an abortion is necessary. My guess is that they have much more to do with the fact that we're striking the language that is in the... was in the Bernard-Stevens amendment and that is the striking of original contents of LB 78. This body, I think, is ready and willing and able to create such a commission as outlined to us by Senator Hillman. This body is able and willing, I think, to give it the agenda that Senator Rasmussen outlined for that commission. My guess is that this body is ready, able and willing to commit some resources to that function. Rather than thinking about it, let's do it. That's what this language does. It should also be recognized that this is, in the context of this amendment, an alternative to LB 78. It's not in addition to 78. It is an alternative. Now one of the things we want to think about is the fact that this commission would have as its agenda adolescent pregnancies. Although abortion is a safe surgical procedure, several times safer than, in fact, taking a fetus to term. Risks and