

comment or inquiry of Senator Rasmussen was right on target. Is abstinence a strategy that we should consider in dealing with adolescent pregnancy, and the answer is you bet it is. So is sex education, so is birth control, but certainly abstinence among them. Why? We want to make sure that pregnancy, which carries with it in any of its options, health risks is a knowing choice that is made by women. Think about the potential complications of abortion and think about the potential complications of pregnancy. For example, one of the potential complications of abortion is the incomplete abortion which can lead to infection, heavy bleeding, severe cramping. Five in 1,000 experience that. In the case of pregnancy, toxemia is a potential complication and that has as its side effect stroke, convulsions, kidney failure, and death. Those kinds of risks, whether you take the abortion side or the childbirth side of the equation, are risks that should only be undertaken, I would hope, by a woman who is willing to consider those options. Unknowing, unplanned, uneducated pregnancies run those risks inescapably because there is no choice that doesn't have risk. In the case of abortion, there is the potential for infection, which can be controlled by antibiotics, but at higher risk for infection, there are patients who had previous pelvic infections and inflammations, and one in a hundred can suffer that kind of a risk. In the case of childbirth, you can have a placental abruption. Here complications lead to severe pain, kidney failure, shock, blood clots, and hemorrhaging. With respect to abortion, it is possible to have a perforation of the uterus. It sometimes leads to hospitalization and occurs in 3 of 1,000 abortions. You may have placental previa, which means the placenta implants low in the uterus, in the case of a childbirth, which leads to blood clots, hemorrhaging, shock and death. In the case of pregnancy, you may have pregnancy induced diabetes. In the case of abortion, you may have a laceration of the cervix which requires stitches. In the case of childbirth, you can have damage to the blood vessels in the event the woman has high cholesterol. In the case of a woman with hypertension and childbirth, you have a potentially life-threatening situation. In the case of an abortion, it is possible to have infertility which may result from acute infections of the uterus, the fallopian tubes, or the ovaries. In the case of childbirth, you can have a hyperemesis gravidarum which means it is not like morning sickness. This, rather, results in severe and unremitting nausea, vomiting, and leads to substantial weight loss, starvation, dehydration, and electrolyte imbalance. In the case of abortions, it is possible that there may be some