

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: ...do not get help that they need. I'm running out of time to talk about all the issues that oftentime lead women to seek abortion. The other one that I do want to just briefly talk about is health care. We have millions of people in this country for whom health care is not accessible because they live in highly underserved areas. We have millions more that have no health insurance. It's difficult to face the cost of pregnancy as well as childbirth for a normal child if you know you have no health care coverage. It's even more difficult if you know that the potential is there for the child to have serious medical issues that are going to cost a great deal of money. There are many circumstances that lead women to seek abortions. And I believe that this commission could do a good deal to reducing the number of abortions by addressing those circumstances.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time. Senator Landis, you're next.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I want to contrast two elements of this amendment because I think it will demonstrate why they're yoked together as they are and why they make a comprehensive whole. The first is that part of the amendment which strikes the provisions of LB 78. In 1981, in a Tennessee study, 93 percent of abortion patients were unable to identify a single benefit that they experienced by being required to wait to have their abortion, 93 percent. As a matter of fact, abortion patients disapproved of the waiting period requirement even more strongly after they had experienced it. In the City of Akron v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health in 1983, the U. S. Supreme Court concluded on the subject of the waiting period that the provision "failed to demonstrate that any legitimate state interest is furthered by an arbitrary and inflexible waiting period. Nor are we convinced that the state's legitimate concern that the woman's decision be informed is reasonably well served." Court says there's no legitimate state interest. People indicate, who go through the waiting experience, that there is no benefit that they could identify and they resent it even more after having gone through it. Compare that portion of the amendment which strikes the provisions of 78 to those portions which create a commission designed to study adolescent pregnancy and defining solutions that can stop women from getting in the situation where they feel compelled to get an abortion. Consider this fact. Women with incomes below \$11,000 are 15 percent of the population, and