

and the Bohlke amendment is an attempt to get at the same idea, which is the quality of informed consent. This is not an object which has to wait until June 1, 1993, for definition. In fact, this is a well-established legal and medical doctrine. It is a doctrine which has not only arisen out of all of medicine, but in the area of abortion rights specifically. Nebraska physicians follow the consent codes of the American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and they require, as part of their professional codes, that a doctor obtain a woman's informed consent after advising her of the relevant medical information concerning abortions. This includes risks and options. I understand that both the AMA and the College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists require risks, options and information as part of their current obligation to provide a woman with information. Now the College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists requires that physicians treating a patient with an unwanted pregnancy counsel her about her options of continuing the pregnancy to term and keeping the infant, continuing the pregnancy to term and offering the infant for legal adoption, or aborting the pregnancy. In other words, they specifically name adoption and carrying to terms (sic) as those kinds of options which the doctor must specifically talk over with the woman. Now it is also the case that, while Planned Parenthood Agencies of Nebraska do not perform adoptions, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America establishes standards which providers generally adhere to and this general adherence all over the country and in Nebraska includes informed consent for abortion obtained in writing for all women prior to the procedure. So you've got risks, options, information and written approval all by existing mechanisms to getting informed consent. This is without reliance on Nebraska's existing informed consent law. Now there is a federation of those people who perform abortions. It's the National Abortion Federation, and those members, which are a volunteer organization, constitute about half of the performance of abortions in the United States and they, as their own personal code, which they use in their association, indicate that it's the responsibility of each abortion provider to ascertain prior to the performance of an abortion that the patient understands and has freely chosen to terminate her pregnancy. These are professional codes and routine practices. In addition to that, Nebraska state law adds some more obligations on top of it. In large part, of course, they are redundant, but current state law requires that a physician advise a woman of possible alternatives to abortion, including