

amendments in this discussion that would take those medical procedures unique only to men and impose the same kinds of regulations and controls regarding 24-hour notice in terms of picture descriptions, in terms of even parental notification. But we're not going to do that, but I want to make the point that the suggestion here is that for some reason there is this pervasive belief that women are incompetent to make good decisions. There is also a bit of a message that we're thoughtless, that women do just get up, find out they're pregnant in the morning and go down, after they've dropped off the laundry, and have their abortion. I...I know perhaps there is someone out there that is...treats this in a frivolous manner, but I would say the masses do not. This is a difficult, difficult decision and women spend lots of time thinking about it. The unfortunate factor is that we have circumstances in our society that tend to promote women doing that thinking in isolation rather than openly with significant others, as well as people with medical information or counseling skills. There are examples in the legislation that offend me because it suggests that women are generally stupid. For example, the requirement that we can't just give printed information that describes gestational development but rather we have to make sure we have pictures along with it, i.e., women can't understand the printed word, therefore we have to put pictures with it. It's what we do with children before they reach a conceptual stage of being able to transmit ideas from words alone. Maybe that's not what the intent of it is but that's the way it's received is that you think I have to have pictures to get the message. The other thing that bothers me sometimes about this legislation is though we cry out that we want to get good, objective information we put things in there that reflects a perspective, a bias, not objective information. For example,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: ...when we say psychological, the detrimental psychological affects of abortion, when, in fact, Surgeon General Everett Koop, who was commissioned by a so-called pro-life President, George Bush, to find research that would substantiate that there is a potential serious psychological affect resulting from abortion, Everett Koop had to come back and say, I'm sorry, Mr. President, but I can find no valid research that supports that thesis, and yet we would try and put it into law even though it is not founded in fact, it is not objective information, it is clearly information