

SENATE RECORDS  
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Senator Murphy and members of the committee: My name is Tracy Ulrey. I am the Executive Director of Options Women's Clinic. We provide early pregnancy services and specialize in helping young women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. I am also the mother of a 15 year old daughter.

I would like to read from Planned Parenthood's consent for abortion form some of the possible side effects or risks associated with an abortion. They include: *"potential for infection, blood clots in veins and lungs, hemorrhage, allergic reactions, death, uterine perforation, injury to bowel and/or bladder, cervical laceration, infection to female organs, hysterectomy as a result of complications and failure to remove all products of conception."* (see attachment) This is a very serious list of possible complications and to think of my teenage daughter agreeing to take these risks without the input of an adult is frightening at best. Now I know that the girls are given this consent form and have to initial next to each item but do we think they really read them? While the procedures we perform at Options carry no risks or complications we, none the less, have consent forms at our clinic. At least 90% of the girls who come in just run down the form and write their initials on each line. We encourage them to take the time to really read it and to ask any questions, but they don't.

We all know that teenagers are more emotional and less logical on a good day, now throw in the stress, fear, confusion and turmoil of an unplanned pregnancy and do we really think they are in the state of mind to make a rational decision of this magnitude? The Harvard Magazine says "The teenage brain is not just an adult brain with fewer miles on it. It's a paradoxical time of development...this leaves teens easily influenced by their environment and more prone to impulsive behavior, even without the souped-up hormones..."

(<http://harvardmagazine.com/2008/09/the-teen-brain.html>)

As an example -I know a young woman who, not long ago, found herself with an unplanned pregnancy. She and her boyfriend were terrified of what their parents would say. Their solution was to seek an abortion. She took the abortion pill and it did not work. Once they had no other option than to tell their parents, their families rallied around them and have made the best of the situation. How sad to

think that there are girls choosing an abortion as a way to keep from having to tell their parents that they are sexually active. Honest conversations need to be had and by requiring parental involvement in this process we will be safeguarding the health of our minor children which is one of our primary responsibilities as parents.

If a parent does not know that their minor daughter has had an abortion and comes home with a high fever it is likely to think she has come down with the flu. So they give her some Tylenol and send her to bed. She may be hemorrhaging, may have an infection or some other complication and will not get the care she needs. By not having parents involved in the health care decision of MINOR children we put our children at risk.

I urge you to please support HB391. Thank you.

**Part III. Risks and Hazards.**

There are risks and hazards related to the surgical and medical procedures planned for the patient. The following list is not meant to scare the patient, but to give her and her parent, legal guardian, or managing conservator adequate information to be used in making their decisions to have the physician perform the particular procedures checked above.

The patient should read and initial the following blanks. Her initials mean she has read the information (or had it read to her) and agrees with the statement.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have been told by the physician or physician's assistant about the following risks and hazards that may occur in connection with any surgical, medical, and/or diagnostic procedure:

- (A) Potential for infection. (B) Blood clots in veins and lungs. (C) Hemorrhage.  
(D) Allergic reactions. (E) Even death.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have been told by the physician or physician's assistant about the following risks and hazards that may occur with a surgical abortion:

- (A) Hemorrhage (heavy bleeding).  
(B) A hole in the uterus (uterine perforation) or other damage to the uterus.  
(C) Sterility. (D) Injury to the bowel and/or bladder.  
(E) A possible hysterectomy as a result of complication or injury during the procedure.  
(F) Failure to remove all products of conception that may result in an additional procedure.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have been told by the physician or physician's assistant about the following risks and hazards that may occur with a medical/non-surgical abortion:

- (A) Hemorrhage (heavy bleeding).  
(B) Failure to remove all products of conception that may result in an additional procedure.  
(C) Sterility. (D) Possible continuation of pregnancy.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have been told by the physician or physician's assistant about the following risks and hazards that may occur with this particular procedure:

- (A) Cramping of the uterus or pelvic pain.  
(B) Infection of the female organs: uterus, tubes, and ovaries.  
(C) Cervical laceration, incompetent cervix.  
(D) Emergency treatment for any of the above named complications.  
(E) Other as written:

\_\_\_\_\_ I have been told by the physician or physician's assistant about the following other information that is required by law to be discussed before I can give my voluntary and informed consent to an abortion: (See §171.11 and §171.12, Texas Health and Safety Code):

- (1) the probable gestational age of the fetus;
- (2) the medical risks associated with carrying the child to term;
- (3) medical assistance benefits may be available for prenatal care, childbirth, and neonatal care;
- (4) the father is liable for assistance in the support of the child without regard to whether the father has offered to pay for the abortion;
- (5) public and private agencies provide pregnancy prevention counseling and media referrals for obtaining pregnancy medications or devices, including emergency contraception for victims of rape or incest; and
- (6) the woman has the right to review the printed materials provided by the Department of State Health Services.