



OVERVIEW – HB 2092



HB 2092, "An Act relative to consent and counseling" would **lower the age of consent** for a minor to obtain an abortion and significantly increase the number of people who can give consent for a minor to obtain an abortion. In both categories this bill would undermine parents' rights regarding the health and welfare of their children.

Being physically able to conceive a child does not necessarily mean one is mature enough to make the significant decision of choosing an abortion. Most teenage girls are not prepared for the physical, emotional, and psychological aftermath of an abortion. They need their parents' protection and involvement during this time to benefit from the best possible counsel and care before, during and after an abortion decision.

HB 2092 would drastically reduce parental involvement by lowering the age of consent from 18 to 16. Children under 18 need parental consent to get a tattoo or body piercing. Parental consent is even required for disbursement of aspirin in schools for children under 18. However, this proposed law would allow sixteen and seventeen year-old girls to get an abortion with **no parental involvement whatsoever**.

The **current law** recognizes the critical role that parents play in their child's health care, and rightfully places consent for a minor daughter in the hands of her mother and father. The one exception in the current law is only in extreme cases, where the child can get consent from a judge, with all the legal and procedural safe guards that such a significant decision warrants.

HB 2092, however, also radically

expands the number of people who can give consent for a minor under 16 to have an abortion, which puts teenagers who are victims of rape or incest at risk for repeated abuse. A child, **aged 15 and below**, could get 'consent' from any one of a wide range of individuals. An uncle, a cousin, a sibling, or a school nurse, psychologist, or even a social worker, any of these can take a girl for an abortion – all without the parents even knowing about it.

Quick Facts on HB2092:

- **Lowers the age** of consent for abortion from 18 to **16**.
- **Eliminates** any requirement for **parental notification** or involvement.
- Allows consent for abortions in the case of **girls 15 or younger** to be **provided by almost any relative**, including siblings, uncles, aunts, cousins, or the spouses or adopted children of any of these relatives.
- Consent may also be provided, without parental notification, by: **physicians, physician assistants, nurses, practical nurses, psychologists or social workers**.

VOTE NO ON HB 2092. – PROTECT OUR DAUGHTERS