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Almost two years ago the Senate passed a bill which made it a crime to take a pregnant minor to another state to receive an abortion with out her parents knowledge and consent. Violations of this law could result in at least one year in prison. Three dozen states already have laws that state a minor can not have an abortion with out parental consent. This bill is structured to prevent parties from circumventing these original laws.

Many think that this bill will help protect the health and safety of young minors. Just as school officials must notify parents before they can distribute aspirin to students, doctors must have parental consent before performing an abortion on a minor. The bill also states that if a doctor knowingly performs an abortion on a minor with out parental consent they will be penalized.

Proponents of this bill also feel that young women in abusive relationships will be protected from unwanted abortions. For example, a boyfriend taking a young girl across state lines to have an abortion. About this bill, [Senator John Thune](#) (R.-S.D.) stated, " It is an affirmation of parental rights."

This bill will help many young women. Minors need to be protected by the existing laws of their own state and should not be removed from that state with out their parents consent.