

Assembly

HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 14, 1973

MEMBERS PRESENT: BENNETT, CRADDOCK, HICKEY, McNEEL, GETTO,
FRY AND WITTENBERG

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

GUESTS:

Susan Crowley, YWCA Reno-Sparks
 Ellen Pope, NLPNA
 Evelyn McCall, Dist. Health Dept. Clark Co.
 Judy Hamilton, Clark Co. Health Dept.
 Paul A. Leonard, Planned Parenthood of Washoe Co.
 Dr. W. E. Winikow, Washoe Co. Health Dept.
 Sarah Richert, R.N. " " " "
 H. Clodfelter " " " "
 Mrs. Alan Rittiester " " " "
 Mrs. John Brophy, Self
 Michele Taylor, Self
 Cheryl Hegne, Self
 Cathy Turner, Self
 Kandi Spuller, Self
 Sonya Kendall, Self
 Johan Sims, Self
 Valerie Smith, Self
 Diane DeRinscher, Self
 Nancy Busch, Self
 Dan Walsh, Knights of Columbus
 Robert Broadbent, Nev. State Medical Assn.
 Marjory K. Isub, self
 Dorothy J. Button, Nev. Nurses Assn.
 Donna J. Dixon, Planned Parenthood & Nev. Publ. Health Assn.
 Rev. Arnold Vorster, St. Paul's Methodist Church
 Donald Mohler, M.D., Self
 John P. Sande, M.D., Nevada State Medical Assn.
 Wm. Edwards, M.D., State Health
 Paul L. White, M.D., Self
 Shirlee Weden, Nevada PTA
 Georgia Fulston, State Bd. of Health
 Emil McGeil, " " " "

Chairman Bennett called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.
for the purpose of discussing AB-134.

Dr. Robert Broadbent, representing the Nevada State
Medical Association, appeared and appealed to the Committee
to consider favorably contraceptive counseling to minors

without parental consent. He first wanted to state things the bill would not do: (1) would not cause clinics to flagrantly spring up all over the country advertising contraceptives to teenagers; (2) would not usurp prerogative of parents to give advice to children about family planning; (3) would not cause moral decay of society. As a result of our present society we are experiencing many tragedies and many illegitimate children. He feels that teenage girls who do not receive advice from parents should have a source of advice and counseling.

Nancy Bush, a registered nurse, was called as next witness. She stated she had many dealings with young people and was in favor of this bill because Nevada was so close to California where abortions were available for \$165 without parental consent and minors would resort to this availability. She felt abortions could be terribly traumatic to anyone, and Nevada should be obligated to make contraceptive counseling available to minors.

The next witness was Susan Crowley, Young Program Director, Young Women's Christian Association. The YWCA is endorsing the bill as expressed in a letter signed by Georgia Christensen, President of the YWCA Board of Directors. A copy of said letter is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

Judy Hamilton, Family Planning Project Coordinator, District Health Department, Las Vegas, was next to appear in support of the bill. She compared the cost of family planning services for one year as opposed to welfare cost for one year. Family planning service for one person for one year costs \$50 to \$60. State Welfare authorities in Las Vegas advised that the cost for a mother with one child for one year was \$214, and that does not include housing and food. The Clark County program is geared for the young, and she has talked to many young people. They do not have rapport with parents and are unable to discuss problems with them. In Clark County School District only, during school year 140 young women between 13 and 20 years of age (134 of which were between ages of 13 and 17) were pregnant. During 1972 Clark County had 711 illegitimate births and this might not be complete figure.

The next witness in support of the bill was Dr. Winikow, District Health Officer of Washoe County. He stated that under their maternity program in 1972 they admitted 349 cases, and of these 59 were under 18 years of age. Of the 59, 57 did not plan pregnancy. Last Thursday 11 patients applied, four were not married and were age 16, 15, 15 and 13.

Assembly

HEALTH & WELFARE COMM. MINUTES Feb. 14, 1973 Page 3

Mrs. Sarah Richert, Registered Nurse, Coordinator, Family Planning Program, Washoe County District Health Dept., testified that she felt the bill is vitally needed. Many young women come to her for counseling and need help. Most of them have already been having sexual relations and are concerned about the possibility of pregnancy. They have already made decision to have relations and plan to continue. They are well aware they are not ready to bring a child into the world. They cannot go to parents. The increased sexual activity among teenagers already exists and obtaining contraceptives would not increase it more. A woman should have an intelligent choice of becoming pregnant and be able to protect herself.

Donna Dixon, representing Planned Parenthood and Nevada Public Health Assn., stated that it is common knowledge that many young unmarried girls are becoming pregnant. In 1971, 210,000 girls under 17 gave birth to babies in the United States. Other large groups either had abortions or married to cover pregnancy. Divorce terminates marriage three to four times as often when couples are married in their teens as when married in later years. Responsible parents who have sexually active teenagers should make contraceptives available; if parents are irresponsible, society must fill the gap.

Dr. John Sande, President of Nevada State Medical Assn., stated he was representing that group as well as the Nevada Academy of Family Physicians. The concept of this bill was brought before the Nevada State Medical Assn. in November 1972, after it had been passed by Clark County Medical Society in September. The Nevada State Medical Society endorses this bill. He then read a letter of endorsement from Dr. Richard C. Inskip, President of Nevada Academy of Family Physicians. A copy of this letter is attached to these minutes.

Dorothy Button, Chairman of the Nevada Nurses' Assn., Committee on Legislation, stated this organization favored this legislation. She read a statement giving the reasons for such support, and a copy of her statement is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

Dr. Donald I. Mohler, practicing physician in Reno, gave testimony as follows: On birth control, preventive defense is to be found first in human behavior and family life education, and secondly in contraceptive usage.

79

Abortion is poor third as a backup alternative. Many adolescents are forced to resort to abortion as primary method of family planning. The sexually active adolescent desperately needs help to delay pregnancy until a later more opportune age and situation. Parents and some physicians fear that complying with teenagers request for contraception may lead to sexual irresponsibility and promiscuity. There is no evidence of this to date. There has been a large increase nationally of teenage out-of-wedlock pregnancies. In 1970, 200,000 girls under the age of 18 gave birth to a child. 20,000 girls under the age of 16 gave birth. The unmarried female of any age whose sexual behavior exposes her to possible conception should have access to the most effective methods of contraception.

Next were Cheryl Hegne and Kathy Turner, aged 16, who had become pregnant at 15. They were representing all teenagers and their friends who felt the bill was necessary because of the number of pregnancies which occurred in their group due to lack of contraceptives. Kids cannot talk to parents or teachers because of lack of trust and understanding and they are too embarrassed to talk.

Arnold Vorster, Pastor of St. Paul Methodist Church in Reno, felt that whether the issue of present sexual activity was moral or not made no difference. The teenager will not approach the parent because of generation and cultural gap. Religion also teaches providing security and care to children. This Committee does not have the power to change the sexual behavior of minors and the best they can do is minimize the damage. He can understand opposition to bill by those who go back to simple times before all change and turmoil, but feels that young people should have access to contraceptives now.

Russell Nash, Attorney for Washoe County Legal Aid, also in support of bill. He feels that thinking on terms such as promiscuity should be reoriented, and aid provided where there is a problem. In their office many young people appear to obtain help in getting married when they are pregnant, and return back next year to obtain divorce. Most are on welfare, and they also return to go through bankruptcy. All this is expensive to taxpayers and with some kind of birth control could be reduced.

Attorney Dan Walsh appeared on behalf of Nevada State Council of the Knights of Columbus. He disputed Dr. Broadbent's statement that it would not usurp prerogative of parents

50
Assembly

HEALTH & WELFARE COMM. MINUTES Feb.14, 1973 Page 5

to advise children and said the bill was designed to drive a wedge between parent and child. His further statements are contained in a letter to the Committee, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Mrs. Allen Hiester, wife and mother of four daughters, also appeared in opposition to bill and felt it was in opposition to our standards of healthy marriage and family, and would lower moral standards.

Dr. William M. Edwards, Bureau of Community Health Services, Nevada State Health Division, in favor of the bill, presented a statement containing figures and charts regarding this issue. Such statement is attached and made a part of these minutes.

A letter was also introduced by Mrs. John Brophy of Reno, in opposition to the bill. A copy of this letter is attached as a part of the minutes.

The witnesses were dismissed.

Mr. Getto made a motion "Do Pass" on AB 116. Mr. Wittenberg seconded the motion. Chairman Bennett stated the motion was not in order as he had previously announced that there would be another hearing on this bill, and an agenda will be published giving ample notice of such hearing.

There was discussion that the present Bill 134 before the Committee should not be voted on until later because of lack of time and discussion.

Mr. Wittenberg moved "Do Kill" on AB 134. Mr. McNeel seconded the motion.

Yes votes:	Craddock, Hickey, Wittenberg, McNeel
No votes:	Bennett
Abstain:	Fry & Getto

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Dunne, Secretary

ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & WELFARE

Wednesday

Date Feb. 14, 1973 Time 8:00 A.M. Room 240

Bills or Resolutions
to be considered

Subject

Counsel
requested*

AB 134

Permits family planning services to
minors without parental consent.

*Please do not ask for counsel unless necessary.

HEARINGS PENDING

Date _____ Time _____ Room _____
Subject _____

Date _____ Time _____ Room _____
Subject _____

57TH NEVADA LEGISLATURE

HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE
LEGISLATION ACTION

DATE Feb. 14, 1973

SUBJECT AB 134

MOTION:

DO KILL X

Do Pass Amend Indefinitely Postpone Reconsider --

Moved By Wittenberg Seconded by McNeel

AMENDMENT:

Moved By Seconded By

AMENDMENT:

Moved By Seconded By

	<u>MOTION</u>		<u>AMEND</u>		<u>AMEND</u>	
<u>VOTE:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Bennett, M.	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Craddock, R.	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Hickey, T.	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Wittenberg, A.	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Fry, L.	<u>Abstain</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Getto, V.	<u>Abstain</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
McNeel, R.	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

TALLY:

Original Motion: Passed X Defeated Withdrawn

Amended & Passed Amended & Defeated

Amended & Passed Amended & Defeated

Attach to Minutes Feb. 14, 1973
(Date)

RENO - SPARKS

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

1301 Valley Road - Reno, Nevada

February 12, 1973

Committee on Health and Welfare
Reverend Marion Bennett, Chairman
Legislative Office Building
401 South Carson
Carson City, Nevada

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We, the Board of Directors of the Young Women's Christian Association, wish to express our wholehearted support for AB-134, which would permit family planning services to minors without parental consent:

We feel that the precedent has been set by AB-70, introduced by Assemblymen McKissick and Bryan in 1971, regarding treatment of venereal disease without parental consent. However, treating minors after they have contracted a disease is hardly a substitute for preventing their getting it in the first place. Prevention through education and information is our goal.

When these services become available through law, it does not mean that parents do not have the prime responsibility to educate their children in these areas. It only means that minors will have greater opportunities to obtain factual, medically accurate information when they need it.

We also feel that AB-134 should be amended in line 7 to read "... connection therewith, to any person without regard to age, parity, or..." Young men as well as young women should have family services available to them without parental consent.

Very respectfully yours,

Georgia Christensen

Georgia Christensen (Mrs. Glenh)
President, Young Women's Christian Association Board of Directors





TESTIMONY ON AB 134
Committee on Health and Welfare

A powerful argument against this pending legislation concerns the usurping of the functions of the family by the state. This I believe to be a valid argument; however, it is often necessary in life to make choices between "evils".

The previous legislature saw fit to permit the treatment of teenagers for venereal disease without parental consent. This was done to help prevent the ravages of venereal disease on the bodies of our young people and prevent its dire consequences to our society. This legislature should do no less in helping to prevent the physical stress and emotional toil of unwanted pregnancy on our youth. The consequences of unwanted and unplanned children on our society should be obvious. One has only to look to the increased incidences of emotional disorders in youth and the swelling welfare rolls by illegitimate children to be convinced of the necessity for prompt action.

Another argument, I am certain, will be advanced against AB 134 is the concept that providing contraceptive advice to teenagers will promote promiscuity. This is the least valid argument of all. As a busy practicing family physician and after discussion with my colleagues, I am certain that teenagers seek contraceptive advice after sexual experience, not in anticipation of it. The large numbers of illegitimate births are testimony to the fact that fear of pregnancy is not a deterrent to sexual activity and conversely the availability of contraception will not stimulate it.

The most persuasive argument for AB 134 is medical. In this day and age when controlled drugs (narcotics, amphetamines, barbiturates) are available to youth with ease- and I assure you they are- it is often an easy matter for young girls to obtain the "pill" in a similar way. It is extremely important that these girls feel free to seek professional help from a physician. This will enable the physician to institute counseling and to perform an adequate examination to assure that these young people are candidate for the pill and that a dangerous contraindication does not exist. This is an opportunity for the physician, therefore, to counsel, teach proper hygiene and adequately medically supervise the administration of the "pill" or other contraceptive devices.

I urge your support of AB 134.

Richard C. Inskip

RICHARD C. INSKIP, M.D.

President, Nevada Academy of Family Physician

LAW OFFICES

DANIEL R. WALSH

DANIEL R. WALSH
GEORGE H. HAWES

1411 NORTH CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701
882-8080 • 882-8081

February 13, 1973

To The Members of the Assembly
Health and Welfare Committee
Legislative Building
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: ANTI PARENT BILL - AB-134

Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Nevada State Council of the Knights of Columbus I have heretofore provided you with a statement of the sentiments of that council in opposition to anti parent Bill AB-134. We consider this bill a blatant effort to drive a legal wedge between parents and child. At a time when political leaders should strive to strengthen the fiber of our society by encouraging better family life, the introduction of this proposal seems diabolical.

We submit the following additional facts:

1. The advocates of this bill contend its justification as being the prevention of venereal disease. There appears much evidence that the opposite is true. Attached hereto as Exhibit "A" is a newspaper article from the January 7, 1973, San Francisco Examiner relating to the VD epidemic in California. If the information contained in that article is correct, this bill is a cruel hoax even upon the innocent proponents of such legislation. Relevant quotes are as follows:

"Many women still believe that birth control pills act to counteract VD, according to Dr. Mary Riggs, assistant health officer of Santa Clara County.

We have seen plenty of clinical evidence to show that the contrary may be true,"* * *

CONTINUED: No. 2

TO: The Members of the Assembly, Health and Welfare
Committee

SUBJECT: ANTI PARENT BILL - AB-134

2. It would be naive to assume that M.D.'s would provide this service without charge. Who is going to pay for medical services and contraceptives when most young girls have little or no money unless they seek it from their parents. Obviously, the next step is to ask the state to appropriate the funds for this purpose. Ridiculous.

3. The bill would countenance statutory rape which still is a serious crime in this state.

4. Regardless of the above, it is on a moral level that the proposal should have its heaviest attack.

- (a) Parents should view this bill as an attempt by the state and others to seize control of their offspring in an extreme totalitarian manner.
- (b) It is an attack on the innocence of youth.
- (c) The bill denies the right of parents to define for their children what is good and what is bad, what is right and what is wrong. Its tendency is to eliminate the family as a social and moral force. It permits the state and its designees to direct a child's malformation.

All of the above are alien to our traditional concepts of American life.

Respectfully yours,


DANIEL R. WALSH

DRW:mp

Page 10 Section A *** S. F. Sunday Examiner & Chronicle, January 7, 1973

Doctors Blamed for VD Epidemic

—From Page 1

tion entitled "Venereal Disease In A Sexually Changing Society."

The meeting, held at the Treasure Island officers club, had an air of crisis about it, reflecting the medical profession's concern with the growing VD epidemic.

During the past six years, VD has increased by 78 percent and 132 percent in California. With 10 percent of the nation's population, California's got 15 percent of the VD cases.

For the past four years, the Kaiser Permanente Obstetrics and gynecology clinic in San Francisco has rou-

tinely included VD screening in its health checkups.

This way, they're seeking VD in patients who don't think they've got it. They take an average 625 test cultures a week of which 20 prove positive, meaning VD is present, according to Dr. George Calderwood, chief of the clinic.

After the countless VD horror stories, informational stories, research stories, etc., that have appeared in all the media for so many years, it's hard to believe so many common misconceptions still remain among the general public.

Believe in Pill

Yet many women still believe that birth control pills act to counteract VD, according to Dr. Mary Riggs, assistant health officer of Santa Clara County.

"We have seen plenty of clinical evidence to show that the contrary may be true," Dr. Riggs told the symposium.

She thinks this may be because birth control pills decrease acidity in the vagina; thereby decreasing VD resistance. Thus birth control pills may enhance susceptibility to VD in some cases.

For the laymen present, the most harrowing part of the presentation was the in-

evitable photographic slide show, detailing the gruesome after-effects of VD. Perhaps the hardest to take of all showed babies of VD carriers.

It's difficult to view such a

display of symptoms and understand why anybody would take a chance on contracting them. A tribute, in a backhanded way, to the power of the human sex drive.

Vote Called for Boggs' Seat

BATON ROUGE — (AP) — Gov. Edwin Edwards has officially called for a March 20 election to fill the vacant congressional seat of Hale Boggs, lost in a flight over Alaska.

A spokesman for the governor yesterday said Edwards signed the necessary papers Friday. The primary election will be held Feb. 3 and a runoff, if needed, Feb. 24.

EXHIBIT B



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, WELFARE, AND REHABILITATION
DIVISION OF HEALTH
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701

OFFSPRING OF TEEN MOTHERS

FACE GREATER HAZARDS

The younger the mother, the more risk to her baby in almost every area.

There is higher incidence of birth defects, and iron deficiency anemia, and they are also more likely to be battered and abused and to suffer serious accidents. Also they suffer from more acute infections during their first year than babies of older mothers.

I feel that Family Planning -- of "Family Spacing" -- like immunizing school children, is another way to guarantee that kids will grow up healthy.

Teen-age pregnancy is primarily in high risk children -- the poor, the disadvantaged, the broken families, and the minority groups.

Nevada State Health Division would prefer to see kids using contraceptives rather than becoming pregnant and having abortions.

William M. Edwards, M.D., Chief
Bureau of Community Health Services
Nevada State Health Division
2/12/73

	Under 12	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
STATE TOTALS	0	1	6	40	104	217	345	451
CARSON CITY	0	0	0	0	1	9	15	20
CHURCHILL	0	0	0	3	3	1	8	15
CLARK	0	1	6	31	77	147	221	290
DOUGLAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ELKO	0	0	0	0	1	7	9	10
ESMERALDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EUREKA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HUMBOLDT	0	0	0	0	2	1	7	4
LANDER	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
LINCOLN	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
LYON	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	9
MINERAL	0	0	0	0	3	7	6	9
NIKE	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PERSHING	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
STOREY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WASHOE	0	0	0	5	14	33	71	91
WHITE PINE	0	0	0	1	1	9	4	11

Washoe County Maternity & Infant Program Jan. through Dec. 1972,
 admitted 349 pregnant women. Of these, 58 were under 18.

William M. Edwards M.D., Chief
 Bureau of Community Health Services
 Nevada State Health Division

RECEIVED

Edwards ELB 5 1973

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, WELFARE, AND REHABILITATION
DIVISION OF HEALTH
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701

OEB Family Planning Clinic, Owens Avenue, Las Vegas, in 1972,
provided family planning services to the following numbers
of women:

17 year old girls	40
16 year old girls	24
15 year old girls	18
14 year old girls	15
13 year old girls	3
12 year old girls	13
11 year old girls	8

William M. Edwards, M.D., Chief
Bureau of Community Health Services
Nevada State Health Division
2/13/73

WME/rg

FAMILY PLANNING STATISTICS
CLARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

	1972	1971	1970
<u>Patients receiving services:</u>			
New	1435	838	539
Old	289	680	884
Total	1725	1518	1423
Patients admitted to Family Planning Services	2327	2828	1684
* Patients under age 20 admitted to Family Planning Services	1269	1287	550
Field Visits	2673	1725	1274
Office Visits	8717	6460	4453
SAMI (welfare)	395		

William M. Edwards M.D., Chief
Bureau of Community Health Services
Nevada State Health Division

Edwards

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS

31

1972

75% of all illegitimate births occur with mothers between 14-22 years of age. 51% occur with mothers between 15-19 years of age.

40% of all illegitimate births occur with black mothers between 14-21 years of age.

Overall, the rate of black illegitimacy is 36% higher than white illegitimacy (420 illegitimate black births vs. 310 illegitimate white births.) Yet in the 13-17 age category, black illegitimate births run 64% above the white rate. It is important to remember that only 17.9% of all births are black, while they account for approximately 58% of the overall illegitimacy.

Approximately 45% of all black births are illegitimate, while approximately 7% of all white births are illegitimate.

The illegitimacy ratio in Clark County rose from 8.5% in 1966 to approximately 14.1% in 1972. The greatest increase was among Negro unmarried mothers; from 268 illegitimacy births/1000 live births, in 1966, to 452 illegitimacy births/1000 live births in 1972 (an increase of 69%). During the same time span, white illegitimate births increased from 48 illegitimate births/1000 live births to 73 illegitimate/1000 live births (an increase of 52%).

* A compilation by DHD Family Planning

William M. Edwards M.D., Chief
Bureau of Community Health Services
Nevada State Health Division

Edwards

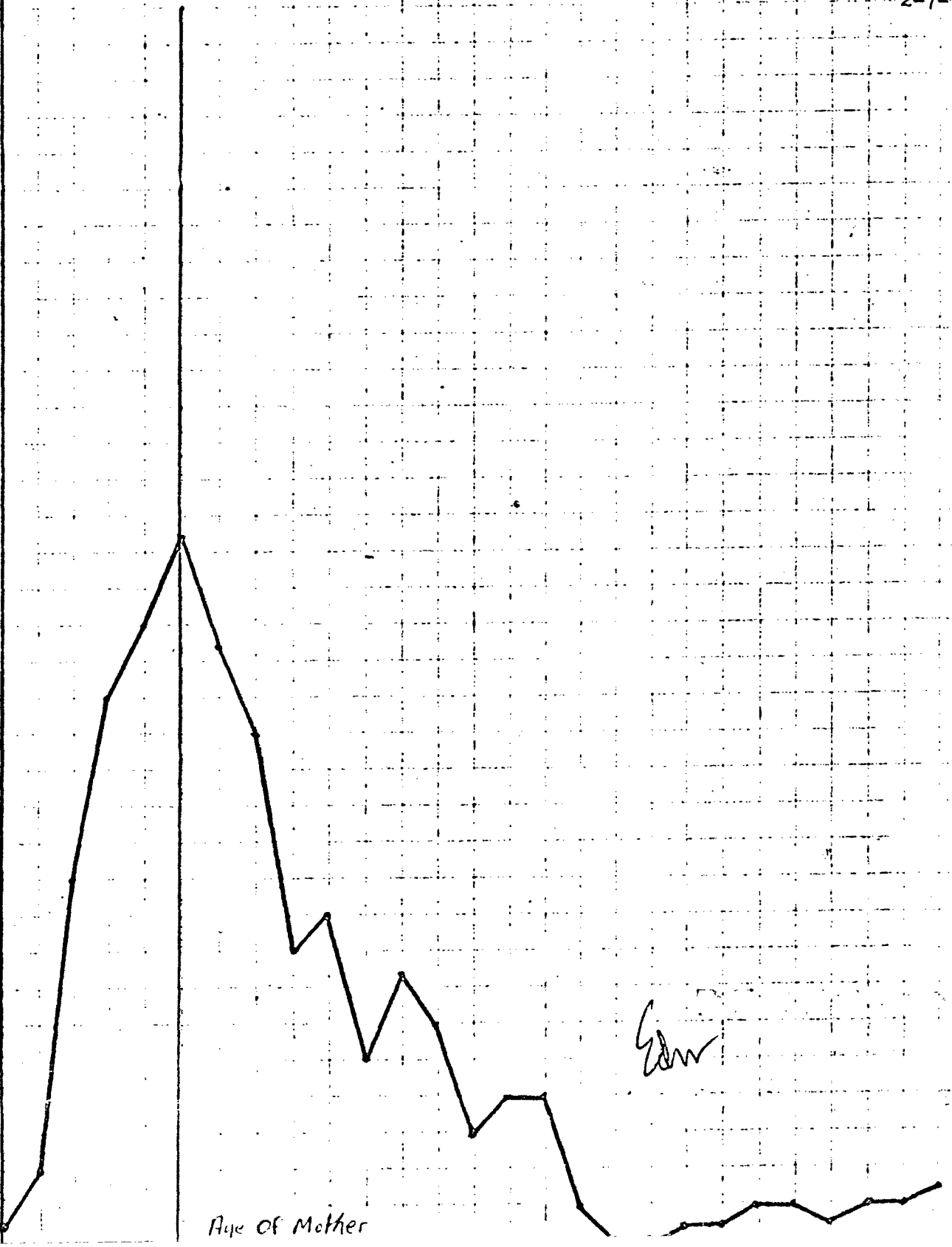
Graph of Illegitimate Births As
A Function of The Age Of The Mother
(Caucasian)

William M. Edwards, Chief
Bureau of Community Health Serv
Nevada State Health Division
2-7-73

Number of Illegitimate Births

59
58
56
54
52
50
48
46
44
42
40
38
36
34
32
30
28
26
24
22
20
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0

Age of Mother



Edwards

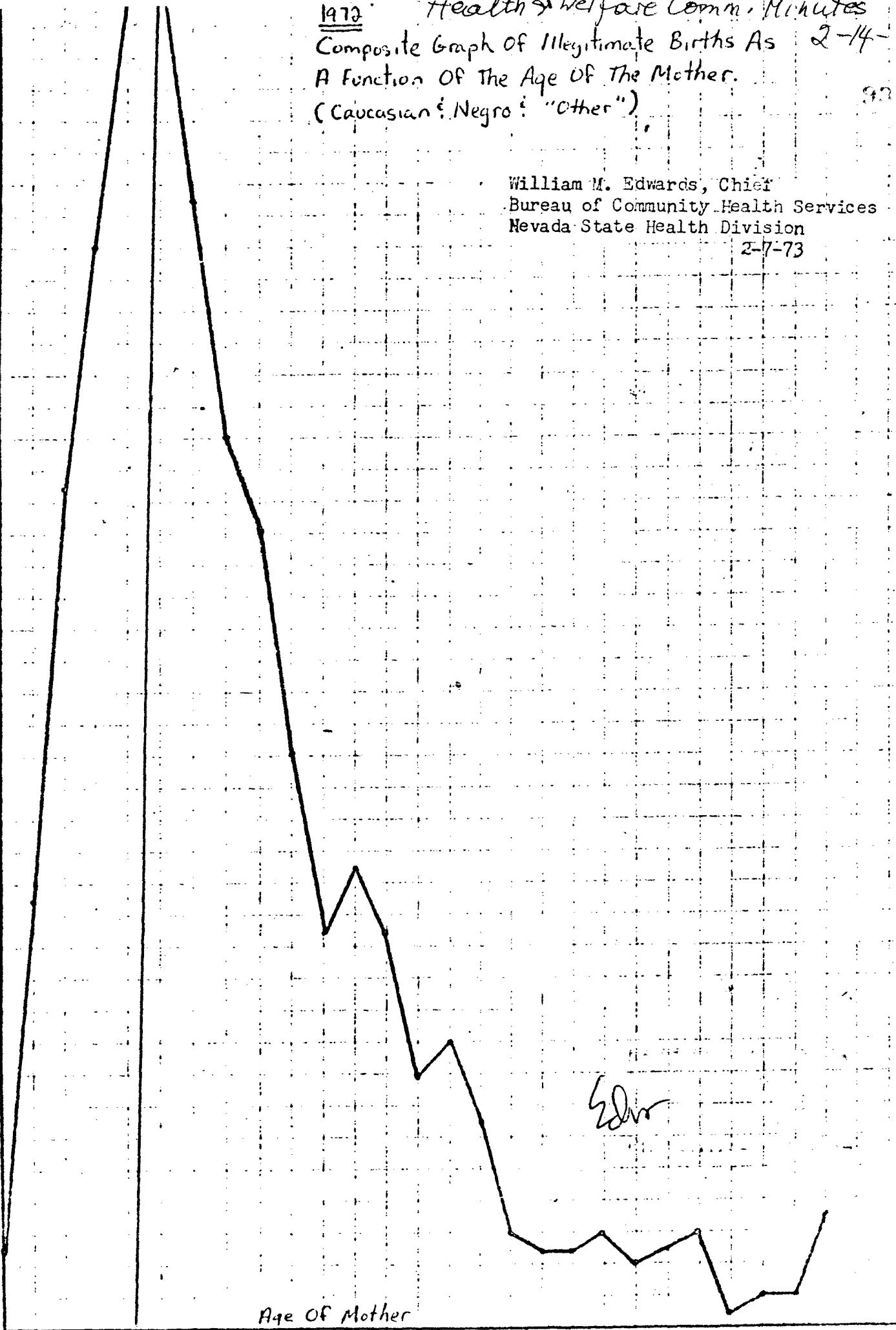
1972 Health & Welfare Comm. Minutes
Composite Graph of Illegitimate Births As A Function Of The Age Of The Mother.
(Caucasian & Negro & "Other")

92

William M. Edwards, Chief
Bureau of Community Health Services
Nevada State Health Division
2-7-73

Number Of Illegitimate Births

82
80
78
76
74
72
70
68
66
64
63
60
58
56
54
52
50
48
46
44
42
40
38
36
34
33
30
28
26
24
22
20
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0



Age Of Mother

Edwards

FACTS OF LIFE IN NEVADA

Cost of Welfare in Nevada for one year-1972 (Nevada State Welfare Dept.)

....For mother with one child on ADC. (Assumption: That the mother and the child will have ordinary good health during the year after the child's birth.)

Cash grant.....	\$ 1,500/yr.
Average cost of prenatal care, delivery, and Post-partum care.....	600
Routine medical check-up for the child.....	84/yr.
Medical transportation.....	30/yr..
Total (This figure does not include the cost to taxpayers for housing and food supplements)	<u>\$ 2,214</u>

The Cost of Family Planning Services for one year.....\$ 50-60

-In 1972 there were 711 illegitimate births in Clark County; 406 were black, 298 were Caucasian, and 7 were Oriental or American Indian.
-The illegitimacy ratio in Clark County rose from 8.5% in 1966 to 13.7% in 1972.
-75% of all illegitimate births occur with mothers between 14-22 years of age; 51% occur with mothers between 15-19 years of age
-40% of all illegitimate births occur with black mothers between 14-21 years of age
-In 1972, 1,269 women under age 20 were admitted to family planning services at the Clark County District Health Dept.; in 1971 there were 1287; in 1970 there were 550.
-In 1969 the gonorrhoea case rate in Nevada for the 15-19 year old age group ranked 5th in the nation.
-In 1970 there were 35 cases of reported syphilis among teenagers in Clark County; in 1970 there were 277 reported cases of gonorrhoea among teens in Clark County.
-In Clark County there are 11,418 fertile females from ages 15 to 45 who are low-income. (based on 1970 Census Data)

Edwards

FACT SHEET ON TEENAGE SEXUALITY
IN THE UNITED STATES

William M. Edwards, M.D., Ch
Bureau of Community Hea
Servic
Nevada State Health Divisi

35

-During the last decade, numbers of births to those under age 18 have increased by 3,000 each year.
-In 1972 an estimated 213,000 girls under age 18 gave birth to a child (Consortium on Early Childbearing and Childrearing 1972)
-60% of the young mothers were white and 40% were black or members of other minority groups. (Consortium on Early Childbearing and Childrearing 1972)
-46% of girls under age 20 are sexually active (President's Commission on Population and the American Future)
-The V.D. rate in girls aged 15-19 increased 144% between 1960 and 1970 (Center for Disease Control - V.D. Branch)
-The rate of out-of-wedlock births among adolescents has increased 250% from 1940 to 1968. (President's Commission on Population and the American Future)
-Higher infant mortality, prematurity, and parity as well as shorter birth intervals occur with births to teenage mothers than with women in their early twenties. (Family Planning Perspectives, July 1972)
-In a study of unwed girls aged 17 or younger, only 10% of these used a serious form of contraception; 30% used douching, withdrawal or what they thought was rhythm; 54% used no method at all. (Family Planning Perspectives, January 1972)
-The single most important reason for non-use of contraception was the non-availability at the time it was needed. (President's Commission on Population Growth and the American Future)

Pregnancy among teenage girls is a most important consideration relevant to the population problem in the United States today. Such pregnancies represent a serious health, social, psychological, educational and vocational problem. Often the pregnancy may be unwanted. The girl may be afraid to tell her family and afraid of being rejected by them. Because of lack of community understanding and services, the girl may be excluded from school. Financial assistance may frequently be needed. Psychological support is frequently necessary. Steps to seek prenatal care may be delayed and services for comprehensive maternity and infant care may be inadequate. If the pregnancy is carried to term, there may be an increase in toxemia and low birth weight; some studies have also shown an increase in the perinatal death rate. There is also the question of care and disposition of the infant—child rearing, adoption, foster home placement, day care, etc.

Reported data indicate that the number of live births out of wedlock in girls under 20 years of age has increased from 42,600 in 1940 to 165,700 in 1968; they represent almost half of all live births out of wedlock in 1968 in the United States, and 2.1% of all out of wedlock pregnancies were in the under 15-year age group. Thus, it was deemed worthy to explore the scope and extent of community efforts to deal with this problem.

Mrs. J. Brophy
1620 Circle Dr.,
Reno, Nev.
Feb. 14, 1973

Committee on Health and Welfare

re AB 134

Ladies & Gentlemen:

I wish to oppose AB 134 as it removes every vestige of guidance in moral and sexual matters from the family: the thirteen or fourteen year old child won't even consult her family. The child will not understand the risks, the complications nor the deep implications of her act. This child will rely on a very busy physician (who is unknown to her family) or clinic to cover in one visit her future life and guidance.

To whom do her parents turn if this child develops complications? They will not know she is under treatment nor will the family doctor.

This bill violates the Constitutional right of religious freedom of the parents to develop and guide the moral and ethical principles of their family.

AB 134 is dangerous to the morals and welfare of Nevada. I urge you to recommend do not pass.

Respectfully
Mrs. John Brophy