

OU students generally favor 'consent' bill

By Michelle Michael
special writer

Oakland University female students agree with the proposed Michigan parental consent bill but with reservations, such as their concern for rape victims and lowering the age limit.

Students interviewed at random from the Rochester-based university commented on the state House-approved bill, which would require unmarried females younger than 18 to get parental consent for an abortion. Julie Neville, 20, believes the bill is a good idea for girls 18 and

younger, but it is not necessary for older teens because "a lot of 17- and 18 year-olds are out of the house" without parental supervision.

"It's so complex," Neville said. "We don't want back alley abortions going on."

Neville of Royal Oak said although the lack of a parental consent bill won't prevent dangerous or illegal abortions, young teens should seek parental guidance.

Young teens are not ready to independently handle the responsibilities of pregnancy, she said.

SOUTHFIELD RESIDENT Melanie Brown said she leans

toward pro-choice yet agrees with the bill.

"It's very much needed," Brown, 18, said. "And will put an end to a lot of our problems . . . with the abortion issue," specifically the pro-choice debates.

Brown speculated that "back alley abortions" could increase and sexual crime victims may suffer if lawmakers were to pass the bill.

"In the case of rape or incest, then what would happen?" Brown asked.

The state House passed the bill Dec. 6, but the Senate won't discuss it until January, after the holiday break.

If the Senate passes it, Gov. James Blanchard is expected to veto it. He said he is against legislation that blocks access to abortion, an issue he believes should be left to a woman, her family and doctor.

Theresa MacFarlane, 36, cites that minors need parental consent for operations such as a tonsillectomy, and abortions should not be different.

"I don't agree with abortion," MacFarlane said. "I'm not fond of easy solutions."

MacFarlane of Rochester Hills said minors need much support and

care, and not solely the "medical act of an abortion."

"I DON'T HAVE all the answers to victims of incest or rape," she said.

Jennifer Braden of Rochester is another woman concerned about rape and incest victims, those who she says don't have a choice in the first place.

"I just feel it's a choice that everyone needs to make on their own," Braden, 20, said.

Farmington resident Karin Delano remembers when under-age friends successfully underwent abortions,

but Delano is apprehensive about the issue today.

Delano, 27, said she would want her child to consult her about abortion to be certain that other options, such as adoption, were considered.

"I have a mixed opinion," Delano said. "I would want to know."

Brenda Ganas, 35, said "I would want there to be parental consent for anyone under 18. I'm opposed to abortions."

Ganas of Livonia doesn't approve of abortions because of religious and medical beliefs. A 15-year-old needs someone to help her cope with pregnancy, Ganas said.

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