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Matters Of Fairness

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Robert F. Lyons, Kennebunkport, Maine

I read with interest that Gov. Dennis Daugaard supports major elements of a bill placing new limits on women seeking abortions. (Press & Dakotan, March 12)

The governor should consider that there seems to be a critical element missing from the proposed legislation: the role of the man who impregnates the woman with an unwanted child. Surely the bill should require that the men must join the women in the mandatory counseling sessions.

The bill, if passed, mandates that the woman must undergo counseling at several state-approved "pregnancy help centers." This implies that the State of South Dakota will provide the script for the counseling session. Who writes the script? The legislators in Pierre? If so, it should include the prescription: "Contraceptives should be used on every conceivable occasion" (Spike Mulligan, Irish writer).

Having grown up in South Dakota, I would expect that much fairness from the mostly male legislators who believe that they have the right to dictate the behavior of the women and to prescribe their treatment by the medical professionals.