

is obviously very estranged to begin with, and I don't think that this legislation has contributed to a growing estrangement. I mean it is already out there. Finally, what is the real issue? The real issue is whether or not the child's own best interests will be benefited by having visitation rights with respect to his grandparents. Now, we all know plenty of instances when we have a grandparent and we have a...let's say a male son, and there is a daughter-in-law, and here are the grandchildren, the son dies...the son dies. The grandparents have had the children in their home for quite a while, for example. The daughter now goes and remarries. The daughter-in-law remarries. The new husband literally prevents the children from ever seeing the grandparents. Not only do the grandparents suffer, so too do these children. These children have had a substantial relationship with those grandparents and that relationship ought to be allowed to continue. So the grandparents can go to court under this bill because their son is deceased...they couldn't under the Hoagland amendment, can establish their rights and the best interests of the grandchild can and should be carefully nurtured and protected. I would oppose the Hoagland amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Before we recognize Senator Schmit, it is my privilege to present to you in the north balcony from the 33rd Legislative District, which is one of the outstanding Districts in the state, the twenty-one 6th to 8th Grade students from Christ Lutheran School, Juniata, Nebraska. The principal is Richard Gudgel. Will you please stand so we may welcome you. One of the best, I said, yes. Senator Schmit. Is Senator Schmit in the room? Okay, Senator Hoagland. Senator Johnson. Oh, okay, do you want to close?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker, let me just make a couple of brief remarks in closing. Now I have indicated earlier why I have such reservations about this. Now let me tell you what this amendment would do. Let me tell you what the bill will do if this amendment is not attached. All right, the first thing it will do...let's say Senator Lamb and his wife are happily married and they have three small children and everything is going fine, and then Senator Lamb goes to sea and he is killed in a naval action during war at a time when he and his wife are getting along perfectly well. They are not anticipating divorce. They are not anticipating separation or anything. As soon as he is killed at sea in war, suddenly Senator Lamb's parents and suddenly his wife's parents have a cause of action where they can come