

support this issue. This has become a very key issue to a lot of older Nebraskans and across the country older citizen groups that are supporting the concept. They are working across the nation to try and provide these sort of rights and evidently it has become quite a movement and at this point in Nebraska it has just begun. The issue has been here three years before but there hasn't been that broad based attention paid to it. Now because of the introduction of this bill and the attention it has received statewide, it seems to me that there is more and more support in Nebraska for the idea. So although we may not be successful in passing the legislation this year, if you will show your indication of support for giving grandparents this visitation rights, I can assure you that the issue will be back in the future and it has a good chance of being considered and hopefully passed. So with that background, the issue has been before us before, this is a much narrower version of that proposal. There is a much broader interest in the issue and much greater support for it at this point than there was in the past. This bill will not be passed this year because it is not a priority bill and I will not ask for a special order from the Speaker. Thus, I am asking you just to give an indication on this vote and I will ask for a record vote on this as to whether or not you are willing to allow grandparents some minimal, some narrow rights to visit their grandchildren when their spouse has died and I think that this is a very key issue but ask for your support. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan. Is Senator Cullan in the Chamber? Well let's go on because time is running. Senator Chambers, do you wish to speak? We'll call on you next and then on to Senator Cullan. We have very few minutes left so go ahead.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I am opposed to Senator Wesely's motion. I was the one who made the kill motion in the Judiciary Committee this year and I am probably the one who made it the other time the bill came up and I would make such a motion any time the bill came before us. I'm looking at the interest of the child involved and not the grandparents. They have made their life. They have had their children, had their family and for whatever reason bad blood exists between them and the custodial parent of the child. To have the court intervene and force that child to deal with grandparents whom the child may not even like, I think is a serious mistake. I've received mail in opposition to this bill from custodial parents who are being harassed by grandparents of the child to force that custodial parent to letting them see the child and they have been threatened with legal action if the custodial parent does not accede to the demands of the grandparents of the child. In addition to that I've received mail from grandparents who have stated that it is a bad bill and they mentioned