

comment I'll make in this opening, remember the requirement for corroboration in this state that we have now was not something that this Legislature did. For once, the Legislature is not the culprit, the judges are and we're going to show those judges that the Legislature is more enlightened than they have been down through the years, and I applaud the Legislature for that. (Applause.) But our responsibility does not end there. The legislation that we're enacting to correct one wrong should not, by its terms, create a greater wrong to a more victimized class, to a more helpless class, to the class that at other times we always say represent our future, represent our immortality. The amendment is very reasonable and I hope that you will vote to adopt it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely is next, but, Senator, if I may introduce a guest, please, of Senator Scott Moore. Under the south balcony, we have Ron Oswald, Superintendent of Centennial High School and Mr. Dave Hirschfeld of Waco, Nebraska. Would you gentlemen please stand and be recognized. Thank you for visiting us this morning. Senator Wesely, did you wish to speak about the Chambers amendment? Okay, followed by Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I did co-sign the amendment with Senator Chambers and am pleased to do so. He is absolutely right in everything he just went through for us in terms of why we need to adopt this amendment. Now, first, let me commend both Senator Robak and Senator Kristensen; their bringing in this piece of legislation is a very good step forward to deal with this corroboration question and I appreciate their initiative in this area. I am also pleased that the defense attorneys have agreed at least to some change in this area, but I am not party to that agreement and I hope that most of the members of this Legislature feel the same way. I don't know who exactly agreed to this 15-year and above cutoff, but it certainly doesn't involve me and I don't think it involves the majority of this Legislature and if Senator Robak and Senator Kristensen need to oppose this amendment because of that agreement, I can understand that. But for the rest of us, for the rest of us, let's think about what Senator Chambers had to say. We now feel that those that are 15 and older are going to be able to, on a sexual assault case, proceed without corroboration, excellent change. But we have to recognize how serious the problem has become for our children under the sexual assault laws of this state and how difficult it has been in many