

think LB 90 last year, and I don't have any problems...if you want to go back down to...what is it, age 12? And we say 11 and below, it's okay to use videotape depositions, we're making some special exceptions for those as well. You know, I don't have a problem if you want to move that age down to there, but the real concern was we don't want to enter into this blood bath again of, are children reliable or are they not? And it's not a new burden and it's not placing a higher standard and it isn't placing a barrier in the law for children to testify. That law is still where it is and just because we remove it for adults doesn't make it higher for children.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. One of the points that I wanted to make, anticipating the senator's response, is that many people were afraid that we'd get into a blood bath as we did last year, and I question to use the term blood bath, on LB 90 on the videotaping. And what I would hope the body would keep in mind is that we must not ever be afraid of major discussion and blood letting if we wish on certain issues just because we want to try to get something through. And I suspect what is happening here is people will be saying, we'd like to get this bill passed, what obstacles could come in our way, and somebody throws out, well, LB 90 came up last year and it almost got defeated by Senator Hall and others. We had some problems with that. We certainly don't want that to happen so let's try to eliminate that whole section so we can get this bill through. I disagree with that type of logic. With that type of logic, anything controversial, we want to exclude that so we don't get anything done. The most important things sometimes done are the most controversial things and we must not, as a body, be afraid of getting into those areas and we must not be afraid, as a body, to say, yes, there could be some serious discussion, yes, it could hold things up, but this is the crux of the matter. This is the real meat of the coconut, if you wish. We need to get into these areas and I would support the Chambers amendment because it doesn't make any sense to put a different type of quality on children than we have on adults. We'll do it the whole way and if we don't need corroborating evidence on the hand, then we certainly don't need it on the other and I would hate that we would make an exception for children because we are afraid to do battle in an area that was done last year. And may I point out that we went through that last year, we made it through that last year and I think we can move on through that with the experience...