

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...that we had last year in order to completely and support the amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Kristensen, please.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, in response to Senator Bernard-Stevens. It seems to me last year you made some of those decisions that there should be some breaks on ages in what we do in regards to children and I would renew that the bill, as it is, there has not been a public hearing on the Chambers amendment and that deserves some long and hard discussion in committee and let them sort out where the age ought to be and, with that, I would urge that the amendment be defeated.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. There are no other lights on. Senator Chambers, would you like to close?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes. Mr. Chairman, this issue of the children was discussed in committee at the public hearing and during the Executive Session and if you look at the committee report, I'm listed as not voting because I did not want to have a no vote against the bill, but I couldn't vote for it with this provision against children. So I told the members of the committee that I would not try to hinder the bill coming out here, but that I would offer this amendment, so it doesn't catch anybody by surprise. And if you look at the letter that I handed around, I had asked Miss Kathy Moore to contact some of these groups and see what their position was with reference to singling out the children and she contacted the National Conference of State Legislatures who, in turn, contacted the American Bar Association, National Legal Resource Center for Child Advocacy and Protection. The statement there was that Nebraska would be the only state with this requirement for children. So they want to move from being the only state that requires corroboration, period, to being the only state that does this to its children. I don't think Nebraskans want that. I don't think that's the direction that the Legislature is going to go. And I do have confidence that if this bill is going to be voted up, then this amendment will be adopted first because if a child cannot even get into court, you haven't just placed a higher standard of proof, you have made it impossible for the child to even get a hearing. Where corroboration is required by law, if there is no corroboration, there cannot be a conviction,