

individual, and I think that if people questioned those individuals, and if you will check the record, but I've always supported those individuals when they are alive and supported the mothers of those children, supported the children and I continue to do so. I did not support the Bernard-Stevens amendment and I do not in any way impugn the motives of the introducers of the amendment, but I do believe, Senator Bernard-Stevens, that some persons would use it as an excuse and on this floor all of us know from time to time that sort of thing occurs. I believe, as Senator Labeledz has said, that the concept of your amendment ought to be included. Too bad it wasn't a bill. Too bad it was not introduced in its own entirety so that it could have been heard and debated and passed into law without conflicting the issue. The issue here is one which Bernice has worked on a long time. She believes in it very sincerely, I concur with her. There are many, many inequities that are passed into law on this floor. There are many times we pass a bill which is a half or a fourth or a third or a tenth of what we want it to be, but you take what you can get out of this body. We are, hopefully, somewhat of a democratic body and we try to respond. We don't always get what we want. The bill as it is drafted today is not nearly what some of us would like to see, but it is something and we will never be able to address all of the frailties of the human body, even mine, it is impossible to do so. But we try to do that which in our conscience we believe is right. It is amazing to me that from time to time on this floor we concern ourselves so much about the rights of the individual, but we do not concern ourselves about the right of that individual who is totally unable to speak for themselves. In my case I happen to believe the fetus is a living person. Those of you who disagree have every right to do so, but because I believe the fetus is a living person, I have not only a right but a responsibility to speak for that individual and that is why I have to oppose Senator Chambers' motion to indefinitely postpone. I support the bill. I will support, I believe, most of the concepts that Senator Chambers speaks about in regard to children and their care, nurturing, education and maintenance and I have no disagreement with helping Senator Bernard-Stevens, Senator Schimek...

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.