

SENATOR ASHFORD: Correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And any one of those four could be notified.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It could be a parent who doesn't have the interests of the child at heart at all.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature and those who are so anxious to try to make this a good bill because they've been embarrassed and shown how foolish and dumb this thing is, how incompetently drafted it was, they want to try to cover that up with this, and now they've got an amendment that one of the enemies of the bill is offering, and they say it's a good amendment, and they're going to run and embrace it to their bosom as Cleopatra did the asp, a-s-p, which promptly bit her, as could be anticipated, and she obligingly died, as was intended. Now, here we are in church again today, preaching the gospel of cruelty to women and girls. Here comes Senator Ashford, trying to make a bad bill worse. And I applaud him because he has gotten the ones who support the bill to accept it and embrace it as a good amendment. These are the thoughtful people who have considered this bill and they're going to take an amendment like this, which is worse than the bill is right now, and I want it to stay a bad bill, this will make it worse. And Senator Hefner is going to stand up and he'll support the amendment, if he speaks, because he's been given his marching orders. I love to watch the Legislature in these situations where it is thoughtless, in the first instance, and then gets progressively worse as it proceeds, because thought and rationality are not going to carry the day. Let's eliminate two of those possible parents that I discussed earlier. But you will notice that it doesn't say that their natural, adoptive parents, that it cannot be parents whose parental rights have been terminated. That doesn't stop you from being a parent, it simply means you cannot, under the law, exercise any prerogatives that a parent is entitled to. But the fact of your being a parent cannot be nullified by the law. So we have a young girl living with a parent, and she knows who the other parent is and where the other parent is, and the other parent is not as strict as the one with whom she lives. So that parent