

into the future. So the alternative answer to the solution, to the problem in my view is not a solution at all. This bill is the best way to go in my view and I would ask your support for the legislation.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members, Senator Matzke, I would have some questions on the bill and I would start out by saying I appreciate all the work that has been done and I appreciate the comments you made in opening as well as Senator Wesely's because I believe the issue trying to be corrected is one that virtually everyone can agree with. But I do have some questions, because I have been contacted by folks who are in the adoption, that work in the adoption area, most particularly the agency people who had concerns about how long the time frame for purposes of finalization of the adoption would be left open if LB 712 is passed into law. And I appreciate your concerns, but can you explain to me again and you touched on it when you mentioned that Sections 5 and 7 deal with the issue of notice to the biological father. Can you first tell me what happens if the biological mother refuses to sign the affidavit in the case of any of the areas whether it names the potential biological father or just denies any knowledge of who the biological father is? What would happen if that biological mother chose not to sign the affidavit? Would that, I guess, stop the adoption process?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: No, it would not stop the process. That would trigger then the notice provisions much as it does presently if the biological mother at the present time refuses to identify the father so that he can be contacted for a relinquishment or a denial of paternity. It does not necessarily stop the adoption at the present time but there's no provision in the law for giving notice. During our hearings many lawyers testified that in the present situation even without a statute like this, they are proceeding to give notice, actual notice if they know who the father is, constructive notice by publication if they do not know the precise person. Under this bill, if that occurred, it would trigger the same thing. Then notice would have to be given under the statute.

SENATOR HALL: So the notice, the requirement for notice to be