

a lot of issues but to me this is a basic woman's issue of you're saying now the woman who is in a situation where she's got to make a decision on what to do with that pregnancy and she is making a decision to give that child up for adoption has the additional burden of declaring to the state who the father is and I'm talking about the mental burden on that woman of declaring to the state, not just telling her parents any longer, but telling the State of Nebraska who the father of her child is and then they're going to go hunt him down and say do you want any rights to this child before this child is given up for adoption? To me it's incredible that we're going to make this woman do...if we want any changes here, first of all, we've got to be making sure our courts are making the decisions not to do some of the decisions that they've made recently in other states. Second of all, we've got to tell these young men and fathers, if they have had relations with a woman and if their concern is that at some point they may want to insert their rights as a father, we're not talking about them marrying the woman here, we're not talking about cases where there has been some talk in the welfare reform system of having the woman declare who the father is so the state can go to that father and ask for support for that child, we're talking about a situation of adoption here where the mother is giving the child to a family who will then be that child's family and take care of that child, so the state, I don't know why the state is saying that we're going to demand out of this person, this woman, who the father so we can identify, so we can go to the father and tell the father, hey, by the way, before this child goes up for adoption, just so we don't get into a lawsuit in case you change your mind later, we're going to let you know that this is your child if you want to make any claims on the child. I just can't believe we're even considering this as a solution to what I perceive as the problem. To me the problem is, first of all, the problem is that...or not the problem, but the responsibility is to those two individuals who have chosen to have relations with each other and some of these adoptions aren't outside of wedlock, but just have relations with each other, and if...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...they don't even have the common courtesy to stay in touch with that individual if they have any concerns whatsoever that that moment will result in a pregnancy, that we're going to absolve them of that responsibility as a state even though they haven't had the common courtesy to be aware of