

we going to be all right? Am I going to be able to keep my child? Is somebody going to come out some year down the road and claim to be the father and be the father and take my child away? All this is hanging out there. We've got to put an end to that worry for these parents and this is the one way I know of that we can do it. So again the details of the bill are important, I think that's worth spending the time on but the essence of what we're trying to do here is fundamentally correct and I would urge your support for the bill.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Matzke.

**SENATOR MATZKE:** I merely wanted to continue my response to Senator Hall's question because I think his questions are very good ones about the finalization of an adoption. I would refer him to Section 15, which states that if after viewing the evidence admitted in support of a petition to finalize an adoption or any evidence submitted by a guardian ad litem if one is appointed, the court determines that no biological father can be identified or that no identified father can be notified without likely threat to the safety of the biological mother or child or upon a finding of due diligence and substantial compliance, the court can go ahead and finalize the adoption. And then the crux of it is the next sentence that says, subject to the disposition of an appeal upon the expiration of three months after the order is issued under this section the order shall not be questioned by any person in any manner or upon any ground, including fraud or misrepresentation. This is a very strong statement of the finality of the adoption order that cannot be contested after three months, even if the biological father has never been notified or cannot be identified, which just bears out in technical terms what Senator Wesely has been saying, this is not a law that grants any special privileges or rights to the biological father, it is designed first to protect the best interests of the child and that's specifically stated in the bill. Secondly, it is to protect the validity of the adoption and encourage people to place their children for adoption and to adopt. And it establishes a finality that we just simply do not have under our present law, there's just no mention of it. There's just no mention of notice in our present law. So I hope that that responds to Senator Hall's perceptive question.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Matzke. Senator Bromm.