

communities where some of these publications would occur and so forth and also the possibility of the chilling of adoptions by putting undue pressure on mothers and particularly young mothers which we often see in these situations. And I think this amendment accommodates a good share of my concerns. And if we operate with it for two or three years and decide that there's a way to change it for the better, well I'm sure Senator Matzke and all of us that have been involved with it will be willing to try to improve it. One of the major things about the affidavit that was important to me is that it says that if the biological mother is a minor that the affidavit may be executed by the agency or the attorney representing the biological mother based upon information provided by the biological mother. So there could be situations where it might be necessary for the attorney or the agency to execute this affidavit. There are all kinds of fact situations I could dream up that might trigger that. The important thing about this affidavit is that I think it is an effort to encourage the mother in no uncertain terms to tell the truth. And we will always have Baby Jessica cases if the mother doesn't tell the truth. It's absolutely essential that the attorneys involved with these things and also the agencies do their utmost to obtain the truth from the mother because quite frankly even with the changes in the law that I think 712 will bring about, I think anyone would have to probably recognize that we don't know for sure what the result might be...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...under 712 if the mother didn't tell the truth. That is the foundation of protection under this adoption law and probably most any other adoption law that you could put in place. So I want to stress that it is terribly important that the mother tell the truth and that we do everything we can to obtain the truth. There is a section of the affidavit that, (5B) which gives reasons why the mother is unwilling or unable to identify the biological father and it was primarily through I think my encouragement that a block was added offering the mother a chance to give another reason for not divulging the identity of the father other than sexual assault or incest or threat of safety and I recognize there is some risk in providing that opportunity to provide another reason, but I think it's absolutely essential particularly with young mothers, people who are not particularly sophisticated in terms of...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.