

registry, and I support the concept of a strong registry, but the change that has me looking at it again are the words "to seek custody". Before when a possible father has signed the form with the Department of Social Services they've only been acknowledging paternity, as I understand it, and subjecting themselves to child support and support of the child and medical expenses and that kind of thing. But now if we use the words "to obtain custody" what we're saying is, if I'm not wrong, if you sign that registry you're saying you not only want to claim paternity but you want to seek custody of the child. There's no...I couldn't go in and sign up just wanting to be acknowledged as the father without wanting to seek custody. Is that an accurate statement, Senator Matzke, or straighten me out on that if I...

SENATOR MATZKE: I think it is from a procedural standpoint. The point is you don't want biological fathers coming in and say, yes, I want to claim to be the father, and all I'm going to do is hold up the adoption and stop the whole proceeding. But I'm not going to take any responsibility and I don't want custody. Under this law they have to claim custody so that that can be adjudicated by the court once and for all.

SENATOR BROMM: Now,...

SENATOR MATZKE: Sort of force the issue is what it amounts to.

SENATOR BROMM: I have at least a mild concern that those words "to obtain custody" might in some cases discourage someone from signing that registry who thinks...let's say three or four months ago they had a situation and they think that they might possibly be the father of a child and at that point in time do we really feel that they will go in and sign up not only that they are the possible father but wanting to seek custody of the child? I don't want to discourage people from signing this registry because it makes an excellent record for notice, for contact, for actually giving them all kinds of notices for the adoption proceeding if they do sign up. It more or less gets them out of neutral and into a place where they've acknowledged paternity. I have some concerns and maybe they're unfounded about putting those words "to obtain custody" in there and the effect of that. I guess I'd give you a chance to respond to that. And I don't...I share the philosophy that we don't want people just to come up to the adoption proceeding and say, well, I'm the father and I don't want custody but I want to be the