

Stuhr amendment that we're on now, 1579, on page 1, line 12 and 13 it would strike "and obtain custody" and the same words would be stricken on line 20, the same reference "and obtain custody". Now I understand that there may be, in fact, other places in the bill where we may want to, if we make this policy decision, we may have to make some changes, but this brings the policy question at least before us and it's on the notice, it's on the registry, it's on the notice of intent to claim paternity. And what it basically says in the amendment is a notice of intent to claim paternity and obtain custody which I'm not sure is even possible that a father may not even know that question at that point so this amendment would make the Stuhr amendment say a notice of intent to claim paternity filed with the registry "shall" and it strikes "and obtain custody" portion. Senator Bromm, I'll yield the rest of the time of this to you for some of the policy concerns.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens, and the purpose of the registry, as I understand it, is to provide a means for those who think that they might be the father of a child to be born or who has been born, to sign up so they have an opportunity for any adoption proceedings or proceedings reflecting the custody of the child or dealing with the custody of the child. Now, at three or four months in to the pregnancy, if someone were to sign this particular registry, I'm not sure that they would feel they could in some cases indicate that they not only wanted to support the child and be a father to the child, but that they wanted to obtain custody. Having your parental rights and having custody are not necessarily synonymous. And as we have had the opportunity to file with the Department of Social Services in the past to claim your paternity, we've not had the words "to obtain custody" as part of the deal and I agree with Senator Matzke's approach in the rest of the bill if someone's going to come in and challenge, if the father is going to come in and challenge the adoption proceeding, then, by gosh, I think he ought to have to at that point go for custody because we're placing the child in a permanent home situation. But just signing up for the registry, I don't think it's harmful to remove the words that Senator Bernard-Stevens is suggesting and, in fact, I think it's a little bit helpful because it might just discourage or prevent some people from signing the registry and we don't want to do that. If they want to be notified of the adoption, if they want to claim parental rights, I think we want them to sign the registry so that we don't have an unknown biological father out