

we're here on this floor. We have to try to look out for not only the interests of the child, but of the biological parents and the adoptive parents. And I guess I wouldn't have so much problem with what you're saying about the adoptive mother being...giving up her rights entirely at the time that she signs those papers. If I knew that she had been fully informed by the people that were seeing her through the adoption of the fact that one of the possibilities is if she signs those papers, that the biological father could claim custody. I don't know if that's part of the information that she gets at the time that she signs those papers or not, but it would seem to me very wrong if she signs those papers thinking that her baby is going to an adoptive couple and then all of a sudden, surprise, somebody who has never been involved with her or her baby except maybe in the very act of conception all of a sudden wants custody of that child and she didn't realize that was going to happen. To me, that would be very wrong. But to take it to your other argument, I think that you make a valid point in that there ought to be a time, a time period when that mother, that that mother has to think about after signing the paper. I know, you know one time my husband and I went on one of these kind of trips to Arkansas where they want you to look at their resort and their land and we went down there for a weekend and we got really pressured and we put some money down on a piece of land and we got home and we said, what did we do? And we had a period, a grace period, a time period where we could get out of that contract and we did and that's what you were talking about a while ago. There is a...in the area of commerce there's a time period sometimes when you can renege, if you will, on the contract and when you're talking about something as important as an adoption, perhaps there should be that three-day period or that five-day period, but I think that you can't make it indefinite or you would totally, totally upset the whole adoption process. Nobody would want to adopt babies anymore. There would be no stability in the system, it would be a nightmare. And that's not what we want to do either. So I think I'm open to what you're saying, but you'd have to be careful that it didn't cause unforeseen problems and ruin the whole process. So with that, that's all I had to say on follow-up, thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely, on the Bernard-Stevens amendment. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question before the body is, shall debate now cease on the Bernard-Stevens amendment to the Stuhr amendment? All in