

Members of the Legislature, this goes to an issue that I discussed this morning and it relates to the right of the woman to change her mind about relinquishing her child. A copy of the precise wording is going to be sent around to you, and while it comes up, let me tell you why I put it in the form that I did. It's...my amendment begins, notwithstanding any provisions in Sections 43-101 to 43-117. I did it in that fashion because a number of these statutes deal with forms that must be signed, orders that are entered, and things of that kind, and I didn't want to try to amend each one of those sections because it would not be the best way to do it. So what it is doing is stating a policy, and the policy is this, any biological mother who has executed a relinquishment and consent to adopt shall have the right, within ninety days of executing such relinquishment and consent, to revoke such relinquishment and consent. This goes to the issue that I was discussing this morning. Senator Bromm asked me if I had any intent to deal with the language that currently is in this bill which would allow a mother, who has executed a relinquishment and consent to adopt, to change her mind, revoke that relinquishment and consent to adopt in order to challenge the effort by the biological father to obtain custody of the child. And to not repeat everything that I said this morning, but some of it because I want it on the record with reference to this specific amendment, if you turn to page 11 of the E & R amendment, I keep calling it the committee amendment, but it is the E & R amendment, the white copy, in line 2, it says, speaking of the mother, may revoke her previous relinquishment and consent of the child, I think the wording there is kind of bad, so even if that stays in, then that would have to be changed. What they mean is revoke her previous relinquishment of the child and consent to adopt. They need to write that better. But, anyway, here's what it says, may revoke her previous relinquishment and consent of the child, and seek custody of the child herself for the sole and limited purpose of opposing the biological father's attempt to obtain custody of the child, and the fact that she previously relinquished and consented to the adoption of the child shall not cause her to forfeit her right to attempt to obtain custody and assert her superior rights as a fit, proper, and suitable biological parent. The court shall determine that the biological father's consent is not required for a valid adoption of the child upon a finding of one or more of the following, then it lists those various items. Here is what I want to ask Senator Matzke, if he will answer. Senator Matzke.