

think I can hear the adoption agencies and others who are involved in adoption in response to this would be a great fear and concern about how this would affect the adoptions in this state. But, again, I want to acknowledge that there is a point being made here, and it is one that I accept, and as...on good faith, so I guess what I am suggesting is that I am not sure this amendment is the way to go. I know that this amendment...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...is not the way to go, but it is also a point that needs to be looked at again, and so I would urge, perhaps, consideration of having it looked at, perhaps, next year, or at another point in time when a hearing could be held to look at all the ramifications. Anything you touch with adoption has so many people very touchy, as we've seen with the long consideration of this bill, and this is a new element that has very broad repercussions, and I urge great caution with it, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Matzke, followed by Senator Schimek, Bromm, Witek, Chambers, and Bernard-Stevens. Senator Matzke, on the Chambers' amendment.

SENATOR MATZKE: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I have to speak from some personal experience in this. Women who give birth to children and who consider adoption do not get up in the morning and say, oh, well, today I'm going to give my child up for adoption. This is a long process. It involves counseling, family and often conversation with friends, relatives, ministers. A woman who is pregnant has nine months to think about this. It undoubtedly is the one thing that is foremost on her mind in addition to her own health. Our law says that after the decision is made that it is irrevocable, and that is done for the benefit of not only the mother, the child, and the parents who are going to adopt the children. I have counseled with a number of women about relinquishment of children for adoption, and what I've done is I'm sure what other lawyers and other agency people have done. is said to them, now this is one of the most serious decisions you are going to make, take your time. If you don't want to sign a relinquishment today, take a few days. Take as much time as you want, but you must realize that once you sign that relinquishment, it is going to be final. And under our law, it is only enforceable if it is voluntary. When Senator Chambers talks about duress, he is