

in the state, and I think would have a serious impact on adoptions, I know it would. I don't know how you would feel comfortable placing a child in an adoptive home for 90 days. I think...I assume you'd be talking about foster home care for 90 days. That would only be fair because to place a newborn child in an adoptive home and know that you are totally at risk for 90 days I think is unfair. Senator Chambers, could I ask you a question.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR BROMM: Senator Chambers, what do you think about the child in a situation where the parent changes her mind after 90 days and the child has been placed with adoptive parents, and just like that the child is removed and into, it might be a, you know, who knows what kind of situation, might be good and might be bad, but what about that, about the argument that those early days and weeks are formative and bonding occurs and all that, do you put any stock in that or what do you think about the child in this situation?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, I do put stock in that, Senator Bromm. I think a great deal about the child, not just at this period, but for the rest of the child's life and also think about the mother. And I believe Senator Bernard-Stevens is going to offer an amendment which would reduce the number of days considerably. I do think valid points have been made with reference to the three month...I was thinking of a three-month period. I had thought about six months, but for some of the reasons you all have already mentioned, I didn't think that six months would be feasible when we look at all of the practical considerations. But if Senator Bernard-Stevens offers his amendment, then you will see that the amount of time would be reduced considerably, but it would be a long enough period of time so that the mother would have the opportunity to do some reflecting. But to answer your questions specifically and explicitly and directly, 90 days probably would be too long a time under all of the circumstances.

SENATOR BROMM: Do you know when, under the present state of the law, when the relinquishment and consent is effective?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, I think in a state agency it is 48 hours. With a private agency, there is no time limit. In other words, with a private, if you sign away the child now, the