

the interests of the parents, too, and the interest of the family. And so this language that I'm including, and I had it passed out to your...to all of you. And what it does is change some of the language in the bill to read, "including the needs and safety of the child". It would go in the bill on page 3, on line 5. And it would read, as the change is made, "so long as the best interests of the child, including the needs and safety of the child have been given consideration". We strike the word "first", we want it to be one of the considerations but not necessarily...we're not rating considerations here; "in making a determination whether or not reunification is possible, and minimize the number of placement changes for children in out-of-home care, so long as the best interests of the child, including the needs and safety of the child in care are considered". And that would...that's the entire amendment there and that would change the language to include the best interests of the child but not rank considerations. And I would ask for your support of this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I rise to support the amendment. In my opinion it is just, I guess, splitting hairs about the placement of words and the intent of the language in the bill, does not significantly change what we were about. And also would share with the body that it...when I introduced the bill I mentioned to the committee it was my intent to introduce a study resolution to look at all of the family policy act statutes in terms of the federal regulation, but also moving toward what other states are doing and looking to serve the best interests of the child, in particular dealing with safety needs and reunification in cases where there appears to be no common sense, and the children are placed in jeopardy time after time after time. With that I would ask for your support of the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. Senator Bernard-Stevens would like to announce that the following guests are visiting the Legislature, Marge Bunde and Beth Bunde are here today. They are the goddaughters of Senator Bernard-Stevens, and they're visiting for "Take Your Daughters to Work Day". They are under the north balcony. And Senator Warner announces that Breanna Wolfe, Jennifer Ryan and Kerry Smith are all here from Lincoln, under the north balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Senator Schimek, your