

up later, which kind of circles some of the same considerations that he's speaking of. The amendment that we hope to address later will remove the language which would allow the birth mother to withdraw or revoke her consent if the biological father came in and made a claim for paternity after the mother had given her relinquishment and consent, and I have a lot of the same concerns about that language in the bill as I have about Senator Chambers' amendment at this point in time. Largely, the adoption bill, Senator Matzke's bill, is a bill intended to change procedures in the adoption process with the objective of providing some additional safeguards so we don't have a case, hopefully, don't have a case come up like we just read about again a couple days ago in Illinois where the child gets to be four years old and is removed from the adoptive home and placed back with the biological parents, tearing up everyone's heart and probably causing some psychological damage to the child the rest of his life. And so it is...it is with the comments that I'm making that the bill is largely procedural and intended to provide some safeguards that I want to say that I think the issue raised by Senator Chambers is so important and such a policy consideration that I...that I would prefer to see it handled as suggested by Senator Wesely through perhaps if he wants to work on it this summer or an interim study or a bill next year, I would be happy to work with him on that issue, explore the best alternatives, look at what's working in other states and what isn't working and decide whether or not 48 hours is appropriate, whether or not any period of time is appropriate or whether there should be a period of time only under certain circumstances and that kind of...I mean, there are different alternatives you can look at. We should look at those, I think, before we make this policy change. To the best of my knowledge, in Nebraska, once the relinquishment has been given under circumstances that are not fraudulent or where the person isn't under duress, it has always been irrevocable. It is revocable if there has been fraud or duress. It can be set aside if the person was tricked or told falsehoods or was under duress or perhaps was incompetent or not able to understand at the time they signed the instrument, those are causes for it to be set aside by a court. And I think, of course, you know, I would always want that to be a possibility, but I don't want to make this policy change in this fashion at this time. I would also say that, in speaking with some women about this particular topic, it was pointed out to me that we wouldn't necessarily be doing birth mothers who are adopt...who decide to adopt their children a favor by inserting this language in the law. It's