

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Vrtiska announces the following guests are visiting the Legislature. There are 14 seniors here from Sterling High School with their teachers and their sponsor. They are all in the south bal...under the south balcony. Will you stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Matzke, your light is next, followed by Senators Wesely, Bromm and Stuhr.

SENATOR MATZKE: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I would like to respond to Senator Schimek's comment. We are not here dealing with a waiting period. We are dealing with a period of time in which a binding legal relinquishment can be revoked or withdrawn. It's...it may sound like lawyer's talk to draw the distinction, but it's the distinction that creates the legal difficulty because if you're talking about a binding relinquishment but then you say to somebody, but, oh yes, you can change your mind and withdraw it and revoke it, that's completely different than saying you have to have a waiting period ahead of time. That probably won't change your mind, but I just wanted to make the distinction. I do want to disagree rather strongly with two things that Senator Chambers said. First of all, he said the purpose of this bill is to help the adoption agencies. That's absolutely wrong and any of you who have had anything to do with this bill know that I have no support for this bill from adoption agencies. There is not a single lobbyist on the other side of the glass that is assisting me or helping me in any way. This is not a bill designed to help the agencies. This is a bill to protect the best interests of children. That is all this bill does. It defines the legal rights of the biological mother, the legal rights of the biological father so that the best interests of the child is protected and we do not see any tragedies like we have seen in...on TV in the last couple of days. One other matter I want to disagree with Senator Chambers, this will probably come as no surprise to him, (laugh)...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's all right.

SENATOR MATZKE: ..he refers to the Jones case. Now that was a case involving a woman that went to the Supreme Court who wanted to revoke her relinquishment. I'm advised, I looked into that, I'm advised that that woman, when she signed the consent, it was actually read to her. She was not expected to read it.