

ability to read that she could not even read the consent form so somebody read it to her. What I would like to do is take a legal document and read it to one of you and see if you really grasp the full meaning and significance of it and you have an I.Q. of 72. So of what value is it to read it other than to say that words were articulated in her presence and, because that was done, the court is going to take that to mean that she understood what was read to her? We all know that is fallacious and the case did make its last stop at the appellate court, the Court of Appeals. It could go to the State Supreme Court, I don't know whether it is but I hope that it does, and if there is a reversal then you all will look at how we could have prevented that with a bill such as this. This amendment would say after she signs the relinquishment she has two days to revoke it. That is not different from a lot of these consumer contracts. It is a conditional agreement which becomes binding after a certain amount of time passes without the one who entered the agreement saying I withdraw my agreement. That is not unusual and we're talking about a child. I have never had a child, obviously, by way of giving it birth, but I think anybody can know that a mother would react differently to a fetus which may have caused her morning sickness, other discomforts, and the baby, once in the world and in her arms and she sees a child. Maybe she still is under these kinds of pressures that I've mentioned and the doctor can be involved in this process and Senator Matzke will acknowledge that. Doctors are often involved in this process, the doctor in whom the young woman has been persuaded to place confidence. We won't allow a doctor or other types of professionals to have a relationship with a client or patient because of the unfair position that professional will have, but when it comes to the relinquishment of a child we do not prohibit the doctor from being involved in that because there are other people whose interests we place above those of the young birth mother, and often it is a young woman rather than one of older, more mature vintage.

PRESIDENT ROPAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: This lady, Tina Jones, that Senator Matzke and I have talked about can be said to have understood this legal document when it was merely read to her only by the broadest stretch of the imagination and a voluntary suspension of disbelief. In no other situation would that conclusion have been arrived at. I think the court behaved in a very unethical manner. I think the judge, if it was a single judge, if it was