

bill that we have before us, but I must rise in opposition to the amendment. It, as Senator Hall says, basically guts the bill and takes a completely different approach to the issue. I have come to the belief that the time and effort we've spent on this bill and the product that we've produced although some of the agencies out there are very concerned, they're upset, they don't like it, it is a reality. It is, in my view, the best way to move forward to address the problem and Senator Hall's alternative I think will not take care of the concerns that prompted the introduction of the bill. Let me rehash for you a little bit about that. We...the start of the issue was the Baby Jessica case which was in... basically out of Iowa and Senator Lindsay and I contacted the Attorney General and were concerned about whether or not this sort of case could occur in Nebraska. Well, the Attorney General, true to form, thought that there never could be such a case in Nebraska, not to worry, but we didn't accept his response and introduced a bill last session and at the hearing, lo and behold, an individual named Jessica Babb showed up and said, I have a case, just such a case, and I'm going to pursue it and a... and a we found that we were, in fact, vulnerable to potential overturning of adoptions because we did not have a notice provision in our statute. She went forward with her case. Her... the father of her child did as well. The initial rulings were against them but basically they dropped the case because of money. Attorneys I've talked felt that, had the case gone on to the Supreme Court, that that adoption would not have held and that we would have seen exactly the problem that the Baby Jessica case in Iowa brought forward, that not providing notice, not having clarity in that, not having a process in place would end up ultimately leading to adoptions being nullified at a later point. So we had the case then come up there and we followed up and had a task force formed and I bent over backwards trying to involve agencies and the agencies did not find much to their liking and felt that things were fine, once again, to continue the way we were going. But we also have seen uniform law commissioners have forward with legislation very similar to this saying we must have notice, we must look at this issue, and so we've had further confirmation of the direction we were taking. LB 712 was introduced by Senator Matzke, primarily, and myself and we had further hearings and we've looked at the issue further and now we have the Savage case up in Omaha which is now being considered by the Supreme Court and who knows how that will be resolved. It could be resolved by the end of the session. But, clearly, times have changed on adoptions and the recognition of