

that's the standard by which all of juvenile law I think is dealt with. The best interests of the child is paramount and I would argue that Section 17 is redundant.

SENATOR STUHR: Okay. Thank you. I still oppose Senator Hall's amendment. I think that the original bill that Senator Bromm and many of the Senators have been working on now has the affidavit which is not a uniform... uniform form and I know that Senator Hall's amendment that is included in that. Also, the public notice, now there is some notice that will need to be given to the possible biological father and I feel that also we now have the registry which has been strengthened. I guess I will be opposing Senator Hall's amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Would like to recognize guests of Senator McKenzie. We have some seventh and eighth graders from Silver Creek Public Schools in the north balcony along with their teacher. Would we recognize them, please. Senator Matzke, followed by Senators Vrtiska, Wesely and Witek.

SENATOR MATZKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. Just briefly, I want to address one of the matters that Senator Hall mentioned. I think you have to put this in proper context. One of the problems with the present status of Nebraska law is that we really have a big black hole in our law. It fails to address what happens if you get into these kind of disputes and what Sections 11 through 19 in 712 do is set out a procedure for the courts to follow if there is going to be a dispute. It's a road map. It's a judicial road map for the parties, the courts, the lawyers and the agencies to follow so that they know what to do to get proper adjudication of the rights of a biological father, and it's really the heart of the bill. It's a very practical part of it. Without those sections, if a biological father shows up and starts making claims, there would be nothing in the law to guide the court as to what steps should be taken, and what do you do with the adoption? What do you do with the child? Everybody is left in limbo. It's unfair to the child. It's unfair to the adoptive... adoptive parents and it's even unfair to the biological mother and father if there is no road map, no procedure, to be followed, and I have to strongly oppose Senator Hall's amendment which really just drops out the necessary procedures in these type of cases. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Matzke. Senator Vrtiska.