

May 3, 1995

LB 712

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I also rise in opposition to Senator Hall's amendment. Where is Senator...? Is Senator Hall here? Oh, there he is. I'm going to ask you a couple questions, Senator,...

SENATOR HALL: Yes, sir.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ..if I could.

SENATOR HALL: Yes, sir.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Obviously, all of us know that... that Senator Matzke and Senator Bromm put a lot of work in the bill that they did and I know that you certainly did a lot in yours, but I guess I'm trying to figure out if you can tell me in just about one minute or less how your bill is that much better than his. I heard part of your talk, but I was gone part of the time.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Vrtiska, it's difficult for me to breathe in about a minute and a half, but I'll try. The proposal doesn't mandate or doesn't list the option of a...the guardian ad litem for purposes of spelling it out in statute. It is... it is currently now an issue that the court can do. They have the discretion to do that. I believe that it is a much simpler process, that it doesn't include all the steps, granted. I would argue that neither bill, if you look at the issues that have caused these very public cases to come forward, addresses the question of the birth mother who does not tell the truth and... so, in other words, I would argue that those cases will be back here before us, very likely; that there is a very good possibility that even with the passage of 712 or the amended version that I have before you that we don't necessarily solve all the problems and I don't... I think that to take three-quarters of the step, and that's what I would argue the amendment is as opposed to the Matzke bill, and I would argue that some of the proposals in 712 are excessive, I mean...

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well...

SENATOR HALL: ..specifically I can't... I, in a minute and a half, I can't and I've taken up your time. I just think it's a more, I guess, controlled approach than the proposal in 712.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, thank you for at least taking the time