

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank Senator Matzke and others, Senator Jensen and Senator Stuhr and their staffs for working hard on this bill. The bill isn't the same bill that came out of committee. It is substantially different in a number of areas. There are people that aren't entirely happy with it, besides Senator Chambers. There are people who are in the...very deeply involved in the adoption process that have questions about it and I understand that. But I think many of the concerns have been addressed and, for me, the bottom line with this bill is that I think it improves the adoption process for the child and of the people that are involved in an adoption, whether it be the natural parent, the biologi...the adoptive parent or the child, the child has to be the person thought about first, in my view. And...and this provides, in my opinion, some additional protection for that child in terms of getting into a home and having stability and staying there. There will eventually be some challenges and there will be cases, if we need to make adjustments in the bill, I'm sure that any of us that are still around will be more than willing to do that. I'm certainly willing to look at the issue in a separate bill of whether or not there should be a reasonable period of time for a mother to revoke her relinquishment. I'm not convinced at this point, based on the information available to me, that that's the best policy but maybe my mind can be changed with looking at what other studies or surveys there might be willing to look at that, that's for sure. When I see an amendment like this, somewhere along the line I've read or seen a publication or a book or a cartoon, The World According to Garp and I think...and I think sometimes that I'm in the World According to Chambers. I think you would have to be very, very creative to come up with an amendment such as this. I...I view it that way. I can't think it's serious. If I thought it was serious, I would be extremely upset because adoption is a serious process for anyone that's been through it. It's a lifetime commitment on the part of everyone, the relinquishing parent, the adoptive parent and the child, it changes the course of people's lives. And you can sit and pick at procedure all you want but that's the bottom line. It is an event that changes the course of people's lives, the people giving up the child, the people adopting the child and the child itself. And...and I think the process that's being put in place provides a measure of protection and certainty that I would have a hard time arguing against. Any time you can provide some long-term stability to that important decision and