

than maybe some states, and I think that's appropriate, because why wait, in my view, until we have some tragedy occur, and it may, in fact, be found in the case that is being considered by the court right now dealing with the case up in Omaha. But having the clamor as we've heard in other states for action on the part of the Legislature to stop this sort of situation where a young baby or child is taken by an adoptive family, years go by, the bonding occurs, and then an adopted...I mean a birth father finds out, didn't know about the situation, comes in and the courts say it is unconstitutional to take a parent's right away without them giving...being given any notice, and then having the resultant, a horrible result with the child being taken away from the family. This stops that, this heads that off. This attempts to...I mean we may have situations that somehow fall through the cracks, but the chances are much, much reduced with the passage of this bill. But as time has gone on, this is a step that needs to be taken, but looking back over the years, it was 20 years ago, 1975, that a bill passed, and maybe Senator Chambers will remember, but it clarified that the relinquishment by a mother alone was sufficient for adoption, and there was a procedure. However, that was, which is now being referenced as a registry, was adopted...or clarified back in '75, so that fathers could assert paternity. You know, 20 years have passed, and at that time, in '75, we were recognizing the increased number of children born out of wedlock and the complications that that causes, and the need to respond to that, so that we can, hopefully, head off abortions and encourage adoptions, and then when those adoptions, encourage that they be stable and secure, and a lot of things have gone on in our society and through our laws as time has moved on. This is the next step, but it is not the last step, and that is the point I am trying to make. Adoption law is never finished. You see times change and situations change, and issues come forward, as Senator Chambers is bringing this one forward, and we've got to be responsive to that. We will never be done with a perfect adoption law. This bill, itself, will need to be further refined and the issue further examined as we get more information and as we have more experience with it. But that's the thing we have to acknowledge, adoption law has been an ongoing process and I can look back and see one of the major pushes has been information. We took a step in 1980, we took a step in '88, we took a step, a further step in '93, all of which further allowed for greater exchange of information, more open adoptions. We thought at every time that we had taken care of the problem, it was never enough. So the point I want to make