

January 19, 1996 LB 592

again, I would encourage you not to support the Witek amendment. The Witek amendment takes us completely off track. I would encourage you to look at what we've built over the last year to see if there is anything that you think could improve it, as such, rather than tearing it apart and suggesting that at this moment, on Select File, we start anew, with a new idea of contempt proceedings, the implications of which none of us know very clearly at all, in part because they're not set out in the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam President, members of the body, I'm not trying to derail the bill, I'm just trying to say, if you're heading down the track too fast, maybe we better stop for a minute and think about what we're trying to...the problem that we're trying to solve and the solution that's offered in 592. And I think one is there's a possibility, with my amendment, to actually solve the problem without creating a lot of...a lot more hoops to jump through, a lot more bureaucracy. And you're talking about that they've had access to contempt proce...or opportunity to contempt...to find for contempt. That...your choice right now is to either fine the person or send him to jail. Now, a fine probably, depending on how wealthy an individual, is not as threatening, I would say, as losing an individual's license. And jail is usually out of the question because then they lose the opportunity to make the money for support. So traditionally, that's why I think this has been less effective than it could possibly be. So, to me, instead of going from one...you know, square one to square ten and having this whole, huge 592 bureaucracy forming, we should go and allow for the opportunity to remove the license for contempt in situations of both license...or nonpayment of child support and on non...nonallowance, I guess, of visitation for those individuals. So, it's a very fair solution, and it's a solution that's administered, not by a bureaucracy, but by an individual, a judge who's involved in the hearing, who can be very flexible as to what they're hearing and what the situation of those individuals are that are involved in it, and can make that decision his or herself without having, you know, a page that says if you do this, this will happen, that is very inflexible, hard to change, hard to mold to each individual family situation. To me this is a very good solution to the problem of nonpayment of child support or visitation problems because it's

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