

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 17, 1999 LB 612

and to Senator Baker, this might be a time to think about the Hippocratic oath, which says "First, do no harm." If LB 612 remains where it is, no harm will befall anybody. A situation is not made worse. Senator Baker feels that 612 will remedy what he deems to be a discriminatory aspect of the child support system. There are others who have marshalled very persuasive information, in my opinion, which suggests that there is something else and more involved in LB 612 than simply removing what might be perceived to be a discriminatory application toward a certain group of people. Senator Baker pointed out how some of these individuals, which shows, I think, their disposition, in order to get around the law will start renting equipment so that they can show that they've got expenses and, thereby, be excused from paying support for their children. I am a divorced man. I say, Senator Price, that a woman is not really complete until she is twice wise and my wife, my former wife, is a perfect example. When she married me, she was wise once. When she divorced me, that made her twice wise, and now she is a full human being. Never were my children victimized by either of us as a result of the fact that two grown people couldn't get along. When I hear stratagems put together by people to evade taking care of their children, I am confronted with a category of person who receives no sympathy or empathy from me. Children do not choose to come into this world. When two grown people break up, whether they were married or not when they brought a child into the world, or children, those children are sometimes victimized over and over through being used by one or the other or both as pawns in a terrible, horrendous chess game, and I think that is inappropriate. The study that is to be made of the entire system, a comprehensive approach which is to be taken, is what ought to be done now. The fact that it ought to have been done a long time ago and wasn't is not an argument against doing it now. That simply lends impetus to the need to be sure that it's done. So I'm going to support this motion to bracket. As was pointed out, I think by Senator Kristensen, by the bill being on Select File it is poised to finally be enacted into law should that be desirable. But at this point, with so much in the way of questioning validly existing relative to the impact of LB 612, I don't think it would be wise for the Legislature to enact it into law. If you look at the committee report, I probably am listed as one of those...