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true later on. But can we go into this statute and start saying, you know, and...and...and rewrite it by age? I don't believe so. I think we have to follow the good judgment of the courts in this situation. I'm afraid that, with all good intention, this bill is going to cause more harm than it would help. I think the first step is to adopt Senator Chambers' amendment which changes the word "shall" to "may". That takes some of the sting out of it. But I...I...I'm afraid in good conscience I...I don't want to put women with young infants at a legal mandated disadvantage, which this bill would do. So I...I support Senator Chambers' amendment; I will oppose the committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Matzke. Senator Landis, on the Chambers amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I'll do my best to explain my future behavior on LB 120. Several things hard to grasp at the same time I think are simultaneously true. One, it is a social disaster that children grow up with limited contact with fathers. There's a high social cost to us and a great personal cost to all parts of that situation. That, I think, is one thing that's true. We have too many absent fathers, and the law marginalizes the role of the father by using irregular punitive measures in child support, there is no support on visitation, and there is a marginalization of the father's role, it seems to me, in the way that we currently do things. I think that's true. I think another thing that's true is you cannot use the law as an instrument to make two divorcing parents work together in tandem to solve and do the best possible job at parenting. The law, as an instrument, will not get there. Third, I think there's a place where joint custody makes good sense and is appropriate. And, fourth, there are places where joint custody won't work and would be a legal fiction and a disaster as well. So let me work backwards on that list. Where do I think joint custody wouldn't work well? In high-conflict couples, in couples with a history of domestic abuse, I think those are places where joint custody has limited opportunities for success. The one thing I don't think you want to maximize lots of contact between mothers and fathers who were physically abusive. I think you want to probably keep them in neutral corners as much as possible.