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amendments that we may or may not do this morning. I think it's serious, I think we need to be deliberative. I agree with Senator Chambers, I'm not sure anyone thought we would really get to this issue, but here it is. And I would hope that we would listen carefully to the debate. But I would also hope that we remember, I don't think that we can do anything to legislate relationships. Thank you.

**SENATOR WICKERSHAM:** Senator Landis, followed by Senator Crosby, Senator Kristensen, and then Senator Beutler. Senator Landis.

**SENATOR LANDIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I did not get all the way through my remarks in the time that I had before, so let me just recap what I think are the critical points, then I'll make a short suggestion for us, and then I'll leave those of you who are more deeply invested in this issue to continue to talk. You can't write the statutes in a way that will preclude parents who want to fight seek advantage and use custody as part of a larger picture on child support and on the pain of divorce. There is no way to write these statutes that will solve that problem. People come to the table, and no matter what we do, they will grab the instrument of the law to create the emotional scars in the other party that they want. That occurs now in fights over sole custody, and it's used oftentimes as a tool by the party who eventually becomes the noncustodial parent to threaten the well-being of the parent who becomes the custodial parent, oftentimes in exchange for lower child support. In this case, it seems to me a request for joint custody allows what will eventually become the custodial parent to say no and to dictate the terms back to some kind of strict visitation rules which may or may not be enforceable while the child support is in enforceable. It's a mess. Here is where I agree with the proponents of the bill. Joint custody should be an available option, if the best interests of the child so dictate. And right now, not judges, but parents get to decide that, parents who are probably locked in a war with each other if they're getting to this fight, parents whose view of the best interests of the child I'd have to say is seriously flawed by the glasses of pain and anger that they view world with in this moment. So I don't think current law allows for the determination of whether joint custody is a rational, reasonable, sensible