

and through this study find that in twenty-one states they have in the recent past enacted legislation to provide for grandparents visitation. Now I think that Senator Nichol and myself have accommodated everyone that has had legitimate concerns, and I do not feel that we should adopt Senator Hoagland's amendment just because he as one individual does not feel comfortable with the provisions as amended. Additionally, I would say that in answer to the argument that this is an item that deserves considerable and additional study, that in every instance when we bring a legislative bill before this Legislature we do provide a hearing process where those individuals that favor such a proposal can impact on those decisions as well as those that object, and if you will refer to the committee's statement you will find that no one appeared in opposition. Now I have never known in my six years in the Legislature if there were judges in the State of Nebraska that had opposition to any proposal being reluctant to express themselves, and they did not do that. I would just say that you are creating a specific class if you eliminate, as Senator Hoagland proposes to do, the provision that provides for the deceased parent. I personally feel that it should be all inclusive, should include the deceased as well as the divorced parent, and for that reason I would rise in opposition to the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I also strongly oppose Senator Hoagland's amendments. First of all, it is ridiculous to have further hearings. All of the judges, the Bar Association, the lawyers, all have adequate lobby facilities and where were they when the bill came up? Apparently they didn't think enough of it even to show up if they were opposed to it. Now Senator Hoagland has sought out four judges, one of them who isn't even a judge any more, and so all in all it is terrible. If any judge is worth his salt I would think he would welcome this provision. It helps to solve problems, and if that judge has the welfare of the child at heart, he will welcome such a law. Senator Hoagland, I can't see how the judges you contacted could be so narrow or lazy, perhaps, not to want such a bill. Now as far as the two portions of your amendment are concerned, they are also equally as bad. First of all, why do you want to remove the word "deceased"? In all other states that have this they have not removed that. Some states use only the word "deceased". In other words, when the parent is deceased this is when this law goes into effect. Secondly, your second amendment is probably a little