

the Legislature. But if Senator Hannibal says that his intent is not to have joint custody granted...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...in cases where it wouldn't be granted now, there is no need for this.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Your light is on, Senator Chambers, you are entitled to five more minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I've said all I need now.

SPEAKER NICHOL: All right, Senator Higgins, you're the last light.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I'll call the question then.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay, thank you. It won't be necessary since you're the last light. Which one of you gentlemen wish to close? Have you decided? Senator Hannibal. All right, go ahead.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. Speaker and members, we have two issues. One, is joint custody a good idea or a bad idea? That is one issue. And reasonable people can disagree. I happen to believe that it should be an alternative. Effectively it is not now an alternative because of the Supreme Court decision, effectively, and by the way, Senator Chambers, I did mention the one constituent. We had at your hearing Steve Flodman who was Chairman of Family Law Section of the Nebraska State Bar Association testify at the hearing that it isn't just one attorney. They have had several domestic attorneys say that they have told their clients that we will not have joint custody being offered as an alternative because of the Supreme Court decision. You have to decide whether you think joint custody is a good idea in any case or not. If you decide it's not, I'd suggest we do change law because there are ways, just say a law that joint custody shall not be granted if you think that is the way to go. That's the one issue. I happen to believe it is a viable alternative in rare instances and when the best interests of the child is the criteria of it being used. This amendment will allow that to happen. Secondly and most importantly as far as I am concerned, I shouldn't say most importantly because the issue is the primary consideration,