

heaven or something. I wasn't quite sure because he was relating a litany of circumstances for which the law should not apply. I think we are losing sight of the fact of what we are trying to accomplish with this whole thing. I think the judges, I think the courts, I think the attorneys involved, I think the parents, the grandparents and everybody have a basic understanding of what is right for the kids as well as the grandparents. We are talking about both here. I don't really think that we should have to muddy it up with circumstances that would direct how courts or parents or grandparents or anybody else should have to...if that is the case, we wouldn't need a law at all. Now I would oppose muddying up the bill with these kinds of...this kind of amendment.

PRESIDENT: We are discussing the Hoagland amendment to the committee amendments. The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers. Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I rise to support this amendment. It just doesn't make sense to me that we have...would be putting in the law a situation where if one of our children...if one of my children, one of my boys, for example, had fathered a child before he was married without being married and then the mother of that child...and maybe never even recognized the child, never ever paid any child support or anything, and then the mother of that child might have remarried or might have married, I should say, and started a family, then I as a grandparent of that child would be able to petition the court and have visitation rights, grandparents' rights to that child whom my own son had never provided anything for. That is the way the law reads. That is the way this amendment would read. That makes no sense to me whatsoever. I don't think this body is even considering the feelings of the children. Know there are words in here that says it is supposed to be. I don't think they really are. I don't think they are considering the feelings of the parents. You know, one of the most difficult things to do as a parent, and this applies particularly to grandparents, is cut the apron strings, cut the umbilical cord. One of the most difficult things to do as a grandparent is to watch the parents make their own mistakes with the children. One of the most difficult things to do is to say, you know, I raised mine, I love them but they have got to make their own mistakes. Sometimes it is much easier to intervene, put ourselves in