

particular individual. So, Senator Beutler, you haven't put me on the defensive on this. You have put me in the position of, I agree completely. Go ahead and amend the bill and agree to support it and I will do it. Follow the lead of those seven states who have experimented and where it has worked excellently. The family of the twentieth and twenty-first century is a different family than it was twenty-five or fifty years ago. All we are trying to do with this legislation is pioneer some recognition that it is different and in pioneering that recognition, say it shall be in the best interests of the child. And in those cases, and there are a lot of them now floating around, where a child should be or what the relationship should be for that child to see or talk to someone, if it is really a contested matter, let the court decide it on the basis of what is in the best interests of the child. So were you to offer that, that very amendment you described, I would not oppose it. I would vigorously support it. And it is obvious we are going to run out of time today, so maybe your purposes have been accomplished or the purposes of some in terms of delaying the bill. At the same time, maybe a bigger purpose has been accomplished and that is maybe we are on the threshold of really doing this up right if you are willing to follow along with exactly what you said.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, I certainly don't want to talk so long that we, in fact, run out of time. I would like to see us act on this bill today. Senator Beutler raises an interesting problem though when we talk about the rights of kids, that we only talk about, when he talks about it in his context of those kids that have all their faculties about them, what about the kids who are mentally ill or retarded? And what about their rights? We know that there have been circumstances, for example, where parents have allowed their kids to go to institutions because they couldn't cope or because they didn't want to cope. How do you defend the right of those kids and do we crank those kind of children into this kind of a concern he has and possible legislation? You know it is a natural instinct for parents to be concerned. It is a natural instinct for grandparents to be concerned. I don't know about you, but my momma who just passed away at 90 or so was still telling me how to raise my kids and was telling my kids how to raise their kids because she had thirty, forty