

supportive of the concept of the effort to try and provide grandparents visitation rights. But something has evolved in that four and five years, as Senator Landis referred to, and that is with the right to have visitation also comes a responsibility, that linkage between grandparents and their grandchildren that perhaps has never been quite clear as it ought to be. And we are now starting to see, in Wisconsin and other states, an effort to have grandparents more involved in terms of responsibility for caring for grandchildren. Now this is a linkage that is a logical extension of the grandparent visitation right effort. So this is my attempt to warn all of you, as we move down the road in passing LB 105, that other states that were ahead of us on the issue are now ahead of us on the next phase of it which is in terms of building financial responsibility for grandchildren. We have a serious problem in this country in terms of families caring for their children, and we have many impoverished families throughout the country. We are finding that that linkage between grandparents is one that can help us deal with the problem, and that grandparents, in most cases, are more than willing to try and be helpful in that effort. Now I don't know if we are at any point ready to deal with the issue this year. Senator DeCamp talked about amendments on Select File. I really don't know how we would approach it at this time. I can only tell you this, that I have been looking at it, and in light of the Health and Human Services Committee, we are looking at other states and what they have been doing, and the concept of what role the grandparents play in dealing with some of these social concerns that we have. And with some of the financial responsibilities that are developing is one that is of growing importance, and that Wisconsin legislation, which has gained national attention, is one that is being looked at throughout the country. So this is just the start of a much bigger issue of the relationship of grandparents to their grandchildren. I will be supportive of this concept, but I also think you ought to know that other things will be coming along to further that concept even more than we can imagine at this point.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lynch. We are talking about the parents who have never been married. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President, members, I...being married I don't think is the issue at all. It has to do with kids and parents, whether they are married or not, and grandkids, in