

my opinion at least. I thought at one time, a long time ago, that grandparents were supposed to be revered. In fact in a lot of families, in ours and I know some others, grandmas and grandpas lived with the families until they died. Sometimes they were even buried out of the houses, if you can remember back that long. I think that established a responsibility and a respect for older people that was most important in kids. I don't think being married has anything to do with that. As far as financial responsibility is concerned, in those days usually the kids are the ones that helped take care of the mother and the father. That was long before they had enough rest homes to warehouse old people, unfortunately in some cases. I think the respect that we should have for older people begins when kids are very young. It has to do with more than just their mother and their father. Everybody has a grandma and a grandpa, hopefully grandpas. A lot of us grew up and didn't know our grandpas, and would liked to have had the chance to. So I think we are losing sight, in this legislation, about the sanctity and the integrity of the family. I don't think this amendment is necessary or splitting the issue is necessary at all. I don't think it makes any difference whether someone is married or not that has anything to do with the philosophy and the need for this kind of legislation to protect the family unit. I think we are making much to do about nothing as far as this legislation is concerned. Because of the unfortunate circumstances that exist in today's society, where grandparents are denied the right to know, unfortunately even more importantly grandkids are denied the right to know their grandparents, I think we ought to be ashamed of ourselves in fact. So I would encourage us not to divide the issues, and I'd encourage us all to support this legislation.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Hoagland, then Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Let me just make a couple of brief comments, Mr. Speaker, as to why I think this Legislature should vote in favor of adopting subsection (3), to allow children whose parents have never been married to have the same rights, the same access to their grandparents, as children whose parents have been married. Now as is evident already, in the half hour we've discussed this issue this morning, this is a very emotional issue. It is a very controversial, emotional issue. I know I've been dealing