

SENATOR CARSTEN: Time. Thank you. Senator Vickers, please.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I thought we had fought this battle on General File. I was prepared to not even ask for a machine vote on this bill because I thought the bill had been at least put in somewhat of a better position with some of the amendments that were adopted on General File. But here we have a situation where the proponents thought, you know, we gave a little but we didn't need to, we've got the strength, we can turn around and add some more things back to it. Now, I think...I don't know whether any of you were listening to Senator Chambers or not. I suspect those of you that have been convinced you had ought to vote for this bill probably weren't. But the fact of the matter is if one of your children do not choose to meet their responsibilities in terms of marrying once a child is there, then why should you have the ability to go to court if your child hasn't met the responsibilities? What responsibilities do you have to go to court to try to interject yourself into that situation? I think you have very little. I think you have very little. I think you have a difficult time in making that decision in terms of a divorce, when there is animosity involved. Now, obviously, it is always going to be when there is animosity. It is always going to be when there is animosity. So you are having a situation now where the child has not even...his parent has not even chosen to get married and yet you have the grandparents, the grandparents saying, we have some rights, we don't care that our child didn't get married, we don't care that there is some animosity here, we are going to still file this petition. Now, carry that a step further. Carry it a step further. Let's say that you have a situation where your daughter was gotten pregnant by a young man and for whatever reason, everybody knew who the father was, but they decided not to get married. Five years later or ten years later your daughter is happily married, happily married to some man that was willing to take on the responsibilities of your daughter's child, maybe even adopt that child, give that child his name. Maybe they have got other children by this point in time. Now all of a sudden here comes a petition to your daughter and her husband asking for visitation rights by grandparents who hadn't even been involved at all. That is what you are opening the door to. That is what you are opening the door to. Now, I don't