

team was involved in the investigative process it seemed to create a much better atmosphere and a lot more assurance to the young victim and a much greater possibility I suppose you would say that the truth would be developed relative to the abuse of children. Far too often in the past investigative procedures have not been such that children who have been abused were encouraged to come forward and tell the story of their abuse. I visited with a child abuser, a convicted child abuser, who told me about how easy it was to manipulate the child and to manipulate the parents of the child and to convince the child that it was not really bad. And that, in fact, convince the child at a later date that it was the child's fault that the problem developed. And in many cases, these cases of abuse were never uncovered. And, of course, as we struggled with budgetary problems to handle all of the various problems that develop in the state, we recognize that some of these victims then become involved in the system later on. And not only do they suffer terribly themselves and suffer throughout their lifetime, but oftentimes cause additional problems for their own families and children whereas a team approach has been widely accepted as a very highly preferable method of resolving these problems. None of us want to see child abuse go unrecognized. And at the same time we want to recognize that the unwise allegation of child abuse and the inaccurate allegation is very serious. And so the team approach has been successful. I'm sure that it will require some training, require some cooperation, it will require some getting accustomed to. But hopefully it will be a major step forward in resolving what is a very real problem not only in this state but in this nation. And I want to thank the people who brought this bill and had the courage to pursue it.

SPEAKER BAACK: An amendment, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, just real briefly. This would add the severability clause. A big concern on the Senator Bernard-Stevens amendment delegating authority to the Crime Commission without a lot of guidelines could be a problem. I don't think it will be, but just in case it is, the severability clause, I think, would be wise. So I'd ask for the adoption of that.