

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Chambers...I'll bet. Senator Chambers, your amendment, frankly, is worrisome to me. During the course of your conversation in support of the amendment you were talking really spousal abuse or a party...or abuse between two adult parties, I presume.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Or a child, or child abuse.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Or child...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right, any of the abuse...the type of abuse that would have to be reported.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, first of all, let's talk about the child abuse. We don't protect any other professionals, do we? You know, if I have a family doctor, Dr. X, and my husband and I take our son to the hospital with a broken leg and a number of bruises, that doctor does not...his or her responsibility is to report suspected child abuse, is that not correct?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's true. Senator Schimek, all we're talking about here is an allegation that a person makes. No other evidence, just an allegation.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, hopefully, I mean what you're doing is you're cutting off any kind of communication with authorities. I mean suppose that there is...is enough evidence or enough...enough to believe that there has been child abuse, that the...the wife's testimony or whatever to the mediator is enough to make that mediator believe there really has been child abuse. You don't think that mediator should report that to anybody?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, I don't, not if the purpose of the bill is what you all, who support it, have said the purpose of the bill is.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, I understand where you're coming from. But this scares me. I...I think if it's...if it's spouse abuse, it worries me. But it's particularly worrisome in the...in the instances of child abuse.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Schimek, may I say something?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Certainly.