

them than to get them up and out of bed and to school every day? I mean that concerns me just a bit, too. I think this sets up a situation, as Senator Pirsch said, that is punitive to a certain group of people. And even though I think the committee has tried to work out the provisions so that they are less onerous, I think they still are. The other thing that I would point out, and then I will quit, is that a lot of this depends on the case manager, what the case manager feels about the family, what the communication is between the family and the case manager and the school, and...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...it could be...end up being punitive simply because the case manager doesn't do her job, or the case manager doesn't get along with the family, or whatever circumstance you can think of. I think Senator Crosby rightly pointed out that this should already be the job of the schools, and the counselors, and everybody involved to make sure that children are in school. And I simply can't support the idea that we're going to punish these families who already have a rough enough time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Wesely, your light is next.

SENATOR WESELY: Madam President, members, I understand some of the concerns that people have been expressing. But again, I tell you that based on experience and Housing Authority, and though Senator Chambers may disagree with it, this type of a policy has had a positive impact, has not have a punitive impact, has led to increased attendance at schools, has not led to anybody being kicked out of housing. Similarly, we think that the incentive here would be to have a positive impact on attendance in school by children of families on welfare, most likely nobody would ever be impacted by this provision, it is optional and...but it is an attempt to try and encourage attendance. So I would ask you to reject the Crosby amendment. And Senator Boutler has been talking to Senator Rasmussen and myself on some amendments that would clarify the parents' role in all this and I think his language would be acceptable. I would prefer rejection of the Crosby amendment and then consideration of the Boutler amendment, and I'd turn the rest of my time over to Senator Boutler.