

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: That was more of a statement. I didn't...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That is the question. All right, let me raise my voice at the end of it.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: All right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If this amendment that Senator Wesely and I are offering is not adopted, then anybody below the age of 15 who is alleging sexual assault must have corroboration or no conviction can be obtained against the alleged perpetrator. Is that correct?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, it keeps existing law.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What...are there other crimes in this state that would be committed against a person 14-years-old and under which would require corroboration before there could be a conviction?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, the very arguments that Senator Kristensen and Senator Robak gave for doing away with corroboration with reference to adults applies even more in the case of children. If it is so easy to establish corroboration even where adults are concerned, mentioning the things that he talked about, scratches or a torn garment or something like that, it's easy for an adult to establish that corroboration than sometimes for a child. So why do away with it? Because it is perceived to be an insulting kind of thing in the law, created by judges, to apply against this one class of victims. So now we're creating a subclass and setting them aside not through some fiat of a judge or a court but by the deliberate act of the Legislature we're creating a subclass which becomes a pool of victims and if a person who attacks one of these children is smart enough to make sure that corroboration is not there, then that child cannot go to court. The perpetrator is immune. This bill creates immunity for those who would commit crimes of this variety against children. I don't care about any agreements with criminal lawyers; I don't care about agreements with prosecutors or any of those people. We have an obligation in this Legislature to protect our children. It is one thing for something to be in existence in this state because of a legislative oversight that we were not