

that if we have a situation of a child in a family that is being harmed by staying in that family, that despite all best efforts to retain that family and maintain it, that it does not violate the policy act to remove that child. And so I think this is an important change and I would certainly support it and ask your support for it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Chambers, on the motion to suspend.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, when we deal with a suspension motion, we usually will have some discussion of the issue for which the rule will be suspended, and I'd like to ask Senator Scofield a question or two. Senator Scofield, on page 2 of your amendment, in line 15, I paused...are you with me now? Okay. Immediately or cumulatively, we're talking about harm that may come to the child in this particular environment. That means that something could stretch...a course of conduct could stretch over a long period of time and no one thing in the course of that conduct would be sufficient to take the child, but if you added it all up together, then taken together it may be a basis to remove the child. Is that what it is?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: That is correct, Senator Chambers. And I think particularly in cases of emotional abuse, that might be the easiest example that I can think of right off the top of my head. This is clearly a judgment call on the part of a child protective service worker which gets back to the issue of training which we will address in other places, but clearly sometimes it isn't an immediate threat that you can absolutely see but a well-trained person could identify a clear threat to that child's well-being over a certain period of time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Scofield, how would that decision be made now without this law?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Well, Senator Chambers, I requested a copy of the training materials that are given to CPS workers and I'm not sure how that would be made. That is one of the things that concerns me is then the reason I bring this for additional clarification. It's obviously a very difficult choice, I'm sure, to decide to remove a child from a home. There is a manual which I think could be significantly improved in terms of the guidelines given to a CPS worker, but as I understand it,