

to thank Senator Chambers for raising the issue because I think he has kept us true to the intention of the Family Policy Act and made sure that our language is clear, and Senator Pirsch was helpful, and Senator Smith was helpful on that. And so I hope this is language that moves us down the road. I don't think this in any way erodes the original intention of the Family Policy Act but it is clarifying language that sets that standard of assessment of risk to a child, and perhaps will be of some assistance to those hardworking and overworked folks out there in the field who are trying to make these difficult choices as far as when do you remove a child from a home and when do you leave the child there. So with that, I would ask you to adopt the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Pirsch, did you wish to speak on this? Okay, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, I just am a little concerned, I guess to some degree, the amendment that we had originally had been brought up at a hearing and then adopted by the committee, and not having had a chance to look at this other language, it is considerably weaker in terms of concern for the child, and I am very concerned about children in dangerous situations. And I think the Family Policy Act, which is very positive in a lot of ways, but I have had an ongoing concern about its impact on children and I think this amendment was all an attempt to try and deal with that particular issue, and I think this is definitely an improvement on the Family Policy Act but the change is maybe a little more than I would like to have seen from that original amendment, and without having had a chance to review it, I am just going to reserve the right to perhaps not feel good about it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, would you like to close on the adoption of your amendment?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. I would, in some ways I think I would disagree with Senator Wesely's assessment that this is weaker. It certainly doesn't leave the broad language in there in terms of perhaps a judgment being made by a worker, making a judgment that that environment is physically, developmentally, or emotionally harmful either immediately or cumulatively, but I think the concerns that Senator Pirsch and Senator Chambers raise are legitimate concerns and could, under certain circumstances, be used to inappropriately leave a child