

a very good point, and I would strongly support, if she added that phrase in what Senator Chambers has put in his amendment. And I'll tell you why. One of the things I have been deeply concerned about this bill is the impact on those children who come from abusive families. I think it would be particularly important to tell her in the very beginning, before she's made any declaration of being abused, how the system will work. Abused children, actually abused adults don't tell, and they don't tell for good reason, because they know the system doesn't work and, if you tell, you're likely to get more abuse. I had a colleague in Indianapolis who told me about how her mother brutally abused her, both mentally and physically, as a child. And one summer, when she was about seven years old, she was sent to church camp. It was the most wonderful week of her life, because it was free of any abuse. And when it came time to go home she started crying and sobbing and begged the counselor not to send her back home. And the counselor said, oh I'm sure everything will be all right, and went and talked with her mother, and came back and said, your mother seems like such a nice lady, I'm sure everything will be okay. And she said the church sent me back into the lion's den. She said I tried one more time when my mother ran off and left my sister and I by ourselves, when we were about ten years of age, for six months. When we ran out of food and money the teacher began to realize that we weren't eating lunch, and she called our mother in and confronted her with the neglect. And then mom and daughter went home, and you can guess what happened next. The abuse increased. I asked her if she ever tried telling again, and she looked at me incredulously and she said, most people don't even tell once, it was fairly remarkable that I told twice. But three times, everybody knows three strikes and you're out. Young people need to know how the system works, so they can decide what to do. I know there is a part in this bill, in the original bill, that was intended to protect the child who was abused, but I don't see how it's going to. A young girl who goes into the abortion clinic and finds out that she's going to have to tell that she's abused, once she's told the doctor has to make that report, under the law. She gets her abortion, but then she goes home and CPS comes in and investigates. Any parent who is accused of abusing their child, whether it was true or not, would probably... would respond with a great deal of anger. The problem here is the parent who abuses their child, when they get angry, it is the child that they take it out on. And so I don't know what the alternative is in this bill for the person who is abused. But at least they ought to know how the