

conceptually, with including private schools. I know that that caused some problems on General File, and there was an amendment that...that...my amendment on General File was amended to exclude private schools.

SENATOR CROSBY: You took that. Okay, that reminds me now. I couldn't quite remember the exchange you and I had before. Okay. Well I don't really have any advice or valuable thoughts, or any high intelligence to offer right now. I just wanted to clear up a few things. Thank you.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Rasmussen, would you like to speak on the Smith amendment to the Chambers amendment?

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I again want to reiterate my support for Senator Smith's amendment. I'd like you to consider it for two reasons. One, for the reason I talked about earlier, and that is in those cases where we have a dysfunctional family, where child abuse is occurring. Again, I want to tell you something else that my friend told me, who has a history of child abuse. She said, when my mother was beating me and banging my head against the wall I got so I would just stare at the ground and say over and over to myself, you're going to make it through this, you're going to make it through this. She said, I got so I could never look at my mother and truly believed that I couldn't look at my mother. And there reached a point where it made her mother even angry and it prolonged the abuse. But she said, I truly believed that, if I looked at my mother and established eye contact, I would die. I'm asking you to appreciate the magnitude and the intensity of the fear that kids who are abused live with. And the only hope that we can throw out there to them is to give them enough information so that they have some control over their lives. I think it's most appropriate that they're given all the options from the very beginning, and that they know, before they open their mouths or take any steps towards any action, that they're fully aware of how it's going to impact their particular situation. The second reason I think you ought to consider supporting this amendment is because the earlier a young lady gets all the information it may well be the earlier she'll move towards telling her parents and making good decisions about...that will impact her health in this whole situation. So I would urge you to adopt the Smith amendment.