

against the law, and one might kill the other if they thought they could get away with it, and these are the kind of parties that Senator Ashford wants to compel, as the bill is written now, to come together. If one of those individuals who is hateful, who is vindictive, who is seeking revenge...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ..goes to the court and says, I want to make that sucker come and talk to me, he doesn't want to have this meeting but I insist that he have it because the law says we must have it, and then when he has come, kicking and screaming against his will, they sit down to talk and she makes allegations about abuse, which are not confidential in this setting because the mediator is compelled, under this law, to make reports about any abuse. So the very things that might keep people from wanting to talk together are the things that can be made public by these people being required under this bill to report abuse. Senator Ashford's amendment says that the mediator is not excused from any responsibility under the law to report abuse. Now those are just general terms so Senator Ashford will know my concern...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ..and he can meet them when his opportunity to speak comes.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President, and again I...we are centering...trying to center on Senator Landis's first amendment, but just...and I won't speak at great length, but just to answer specifically Senator Chambers' concerns; first of all, there is a specific provision in the bill that states that if there is an allegation of abuse in the marriage that that mediation can be terminated and so that...so that one or the other party cannot be forced into a situation outside of a courtroom setting that would put either of them in some sort of fear of abuse, and obviously that is an issue. It was an issue that was addressed at great length in the hearing and in the studies that went into putting this bill together, so I think we've dealt with that. Secondarily, the issue of the North versus the South and two parties that hate each other, I'm not absolutely certain that's correct. I think that it's varying