

heart, mediation works for two reasons. Number one, it's not a strict legal setting in which you're bound to simply talk about that which is legally relevant, you get to talk about what is emotionally relevant. You get to talk about all of the things that stick in your craw, whether or not a judge would say that's appropriate or not or relevant or not, and those kinds of issues are real issues. They are powerful issues and the chance to talk about and raise those issues is one of the reasons mediation can be a healing process. It's not hampered by the narrowness of what is legally relevant. Secondly, mediation works because it is a voluntary process in which parties choose to agree. There are nonbinding, nonmandatory family and parenting acts around the country. They vary, it's true. There are people who will not go to the first meeting. There are people who will not consent. That's absolutely true. You'll have less of a caseload if that's the case. The chance to find agreement are among those people who will go and who will sit down and who will talk. That is where mediation is going to be successful and I want to vote for 728. I want to support the Parenting Act. I want mediation to work, but I'll tell you this. I don't want mediation to be bloodied by people who are dragged down there who have to do it, and who go out and say mediation doesn't work, and spread that news and kill not only it in the parenting setting, but in the nonparenting setting as well. This tool should be picked up by people who want to use it rather than forced into their hands by a court.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Landis. Before we proceed with debate I would like to call your attention to the area under the south balcony. Special guests today of Senator Schrock are Harry and Evelyn Dahlstrom of Holdrege, Nebraska. Would you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you. I'll now recognize Senator Kristensen followed by Senators Ashford, Chambers, Abboud and Rasmussen. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature, divorce is probably one of the worst things that occur in the legal system. I know of very few lawyers who enjoy doing divorce work. It's emotional, it's difficult, it offers few good solutions. It offers very few good feelings when you're done. Why? Well, there is a natural split in division but there are also perceived winners and there are perceived losers in the system and I find the title of 728 interesting, the Parenting Act, and almost at times I wished that I could