

Or we think of Senator Landis's use of the words obligatory and we think, well, this is obligatory, we don't want anybody to have to do this and Senator Landis talked in terms of the farm mediation bill and said, well, that shows that voluntary mediation works. I'll take each one of those things in order. First of all, the farm mediation bill and that works when it's voluntary. Well, if you remember, those of you who were here remember the debate about that, remember that the bankers came in and said we will not agree to this bill if it's not voluntary. That's one thing. And so we're comparing apples and oranges. The second thing is that we're talking in this bill about the children. The children are not parties to the dispute. The children are third party beneficiaries of whatever the parents do or whatever the court does. It makes this issue of parental custody and children and rights different than a conflict between two contracting parties over a farm dispute. So that's the second point. Thirdly, when Senator Landis uses the word obligatory he wants you to think that this is a very onerous, obligatory system and I would suggest to you that the proposal in 728, of all the 33 states that have this parenting plan in effect, this is one of the least obligatory of all of them. If you look at the spectrum, there are states that require, Texas requires eight hours of obligatory parenting classes if they're going through a custody battle. What we are saying here is if one of the two parties requests it, then they can get together for one meeting and that meeting can be by telephone and that's it, that's it. That is not the kind of obligatory system that Senator Landis wants us to think about when he uses the word obligatory. Senator Kristensen talks about another layer of bureaucracy on top of existing bureaucracy. What he's really saying is the lawyers to an extent lose some control of the case. That's what he's really talking about. And I want to tell you, I'm a lawyer and I try these cases and I don't think lawyers do a very good job sometimes because what happens is they get involved in the lawyers own egos. Senator Kristensen says lawyers don't like to try these cases. Well, I guarantee you, they do try them, and they take them, and they charge a lot of fees to do them and, you know, if they didn't want to take them, there is no requirement that lawyers take domestic relations cases. But we're not suggesting that we do away with the trial system as I responded to Senator Beutler's questions. I'm not, we're not suggesting that we do that obviously. All we are doing here, all we are doing is requesting for the best interests of the children that their parents sit down, if one of the parents