

wants to do it for one session, and talk about developing a parenting plan which in every state that this has been tried it has been successful 79 percent, and in Denver it is mandatory. It is mandatory by both parties. It is mandatory that they go through this process. Seventy-nine percent of the parenting plans...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...that were developed in Denver have been successful, 79 percent have been successful and it's obligatory in Denver. It's obligatory in Denver. Both parties must go whether they want to or not. That's obligatory. The other point Senator Landis talks about voluntariness of mediation. Mediation is voluntary because you don't have to reach agreement. Mediation is voluntary because it doesn't require a decision. That's what makes it mediation, not that you voluntarily get into it in the first place, that's not what separates mediation from arbitration, and throughout our law, there are many examples, labor cases, for example, and many others where the courts can require mediation and they require mediation in domestic relations cases in 33 states or varying degrees of requirements of mediation. So don't get confused on arbitration and mediation because it's not the getting into the system that differentiates arbitration from mediation.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. I would like to call the senators' attention to the area under the south balcony. Special guests of the Legislature today are former Senator John Weihing and former Senator and former Lieutenant Governor Bill Nichol of Scottsbluff. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, one thing that I want to say into the record whether anybody on this floor hears it or not is that there is much being done in trying to figure how to get women out of abusive situations. That could be one of the things that led to a divorce, the man has the upper hand and he, under the bill as drafted now, could compel that woman to confront him again, sit down with him. I'm going to show you how ridiculous this whole