

in his amendment. I read his amendment and that's what it says.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The mediator...let me read it. Page 7, starting with line 3, the mediator shall advise the parties that they should consult with an attorney. That puts the attorney in it and the mediator has to do that. What kind of bill is this? It's one of those that has an allure, that sounds good because of the title, but when you begin to read it you see it is not what it is cut out to be. The children, Senator Ashford, not based on how you feel but on the way this bill is constructed, their best interests is not what is being considered. The children are the stakes. They are the prize. In some instances they are to be the sacrifice. You're going to take two people who may at least be talking even with some degree of anger and put them into what can be described as an irreconcilable conflict by forcing them against their will at the behest of one person, a lawyer...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...or a judge to come together and talk when they don't want to see each other at that particular point.

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

SENATOR ABBOUD: Madam President, colleagues, I rise in opposition to Senator Landis's amendment. I'm going to focus right now on the section dealing with termination because I think that that's really what the focus of this amendment is on. The amendment that we're addressing focuses in on both parties consenting to be a part of this process, and under the original bill, both parties do not have to consent to be a part of the process and that really...this really comes to the crux of the bill itself. Under the current bill as amended by the committee amendments, and I might add that the committee amendments completely rewrite the bill. Under Section 4, it states that this matter shall be set for mediation if either party requests it, if either legal counsel requests it or if the judge requests that this be done. So you have all these different parties involved that can request that an attempt at mediation be sought. Now, once they are in the mediation process, how can this mediation be terminated, and that is under Section 9 of the bill. And it states that first a mediator may terminate for one