

theory of mediation and how it should be voluntary. On the other hand, I do think that this is a somewhat different situation in the sense that we don't just have two parties coming together. We have a third party and that is the children and the focus of this is to try and work out a healthy arrangement for the children. And I think even that first mediation session, even if it's mandatory and, yes, there may well be some that will come not feeling good about having to come, but on the other hand, it seems to me that it's worth at least one shot, one shot with a qualified mediator and it seems to me that the first amendment we passed makes it very, very clear that we are going to have qualified mediators doing this, that it can...there would be a possibility there of at least making both parties aware of the potential of mediation, potential in mediation that is focusing on one issue, not the division of the property, not all the complaints about each other, but one issue and that is what is in the best interests of the children. And I think there are those that have said there are plenty of divorce situations where there is intense hatred and intense negative feelings and nothing is going to get them to work things out on behalf of the children and that is true. But on the other hand, I think there are plenty of situations where in spite of extreme negative feelings between the parents that sometimes they are able to focus on, yes, I want to do best by my children and, yes, I am willing to go through this process because I see it may help me clear away all the other stuff for the time being and focus on what is best for the children. I think by having the first amendment which makes the qualifications of the mediator very, very strong, I think the potential of even one shot at mediation, having the opportunity of working out a good plan in a nonadversarial environment or a less adversarial then when you are pitting each other against a variety of issues, that if we add the language regarding domestic violence before that first mandatory mediation session that I think that...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: ...that first session is worth it and there are enough protections in the rest of the bill in terms of terminating that mediation if is the best thing for both the parties as well as the children and I would urge you to oppose this amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Senator