

trials or we could do away with some of the animosity and make the children fare better under a divorce situation, I think that's true. Unfortunately, those are going to be the cases that probably are going to get voluntarily mediated out anyway. The true cases where you have disputes, where you have irreconcilable differences or you have people who want to use each other for leverage, mandatory mediation isn't going to make any difference to them anyway and then you've created a lot of contempt for the system because you've forced them to go through one more step in order to achieve what they ultimately wanted to do, and that was to get a divorce. So with that, Senator Rasmussen, I agree and I think that your concern about face-to-face...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...confrontations should be avoided, but I'm not sure you can fix that with LB 728. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Madam President, members, Senator Ashford, in the first opening statement of the bill it says that in the best interests of a minor child, it goes on to say to the greatest extent possible, the ongoing involvement of both parents in the life of the minor child, it says serves the best interests of a minor child, to maintain to the greatest extent possible, the ongoing involvement of both parents in the life of the minor child. Do you feel that that's always true?

SENATOR ASHFORD: No, but I think that it's, in my experience, both personal experience and from the divorce cases that I've tried, which are several, that without question the problem is that the divorce process drives people apart and that that is not...but certainly there are cases, especially abuse cases, where that doesn't...it isn't the case. But I would say in more than 50 percent it is the case and that it's the driving them apart that causes the problem.

SENATOR BOHLKE: The point of abuse is the portion that I'm having a problem with and, as you said in 50 percent of the cases it would be best to have both parents involved, this seems like a strong statement, overall statement for the bill, recognizing that there are times that that may not be true. And then the other point I wanted to come back to that we discussed