

going to be through with this bill. When bad legislation comes, I'm going to do what I can to change it if possible, but I'm going to make every effort to do that. Now if this were a different piece of legislation that dealt with an area that people might be more conversant with, much of this could be called legalese. Then there might be more participation, but perhaps people have already made agreements that they'll support the bill no matter what or they think that they'll never be in a situation where they'll face this kind of circumstance, nobody in their district will, and then maybe a year from now we'll have somebody coming back here like we did with the bone marrow bill this morning saying somebody in my district went through this and I had no idea it would be so hurtful. Why, they went in there and agreed to try to work this stuff out and they laid all the problems that they're facing on the table. The next thing they knew, here come the child protective service and the sheriff knocking on their door because there is a charge of child abuse against them brought by the mediator. But the mediator never told this person in advance, what you say to me is not really in confidence and it can be used against you in a criminal proceeding and will be because I've got to tell. When that happens, then whichever senator whose district that occurs in will come down here and say, why is that in the law, why was not something done about it. Well, something can be done about it now. This ought to be stricken from the bill and nothing that could be the basis of a criminal charge should have to be divulged by that mediator. Senator Ashford used the term abuse, a generic term. That includes child abuse. He knows child abuse has to be reported. All the people who have dealt in this area know that child abuse has to be reported, so if that's the only type of abuse under the law that has to be reported, obviously that's the type of abuse that this amendment is aimed at, and I told him anything that could be the basis of a criminal charge. So he knows, but he wants to hasten this bill over to Select File, but that is not going to happen this afternoon. And I'm going to get on record the objections that I have to this bill and the efforts that I put forth to try to make the changes. I would ask anybody on the floor of this Legislature how you would feel if you were the person who went to one of these sessions and something that you stated, in an attempt to work through your problems, became the basis of a criminal charge against you that resulted from the mediator, in whom you reposed trust, saying that he or she was compelled under the law to tell on you, but the mediator did not inform you of that in advance. If you strike this language, you're not