

that's why we're...that's what we're attempting to do here. I would agree to any suggestions about clarifying the language so that we understand the roles and responsibilities, as well as strengthen the ability of law enforcement to do a good job of investigation.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I didn't exactly follow protocol here and I guess I'd ask Senator Wesely if he has anything to add to that discussion at this point. Probably should have asked you first, Don.

SENATOR WESELY: That's all right.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Schimek, the language you're referring to in the committee amendment came from a task force on child welfare and child abuse that Mary Dean Harvey, the director of Social Services, had put in place, so at the hearing they brought us this language and I will be glad to give you a copy of what the original section talked about and I think you'll find that this is a strengthening of the situation, not a weakening of it, that by making it clear that law enforcement will investigate the report. Currently, the statute reads determine whether or not to investigate. This says you investigate the report and to take immediate steps is from the original language so that's...we've used that again in this language and the back up of the department is there, but it's not...the intent is not to have law enforcement do all of it. They go in and investigate on the criminal side of things the same time the Department of Social Services has the caseworker out there to determine the family situation, the status of the family, the threat to the child, that sort of thing, to determine whether or not what steps they want to take under their auspices. And so some people have spent some time to look at this and I feel comfortable that this is an improvement in the process and be happy to talk and work with you further on it, but I don't have a problem with this amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. I guess I do have a problem with the wording and I would like to think about it a little bit and, Senator Rasmussen, I'd be interested in the meeting if, you know, if my...either my staff or I can be of any