

committee, along with Senator Day and Jessie Rasmussen and the Governor, and an agreement was reached to handle visitation and child support on a more equal basis. The reason for that, the Judiciary Committee has heard, for several years, from noncustodial parents about the difficulties they have in seeing their kids. You can imagine, as a parent, what it would be like to, for no fault of your own, be denied the opportunity to tuck your kid in or to even take your kid to the park or to even see your kid. We're real quick to take people's licenses and toss people in jail and take their professional licenses and do all sorts of things to collect child support from them, but we won't lift a finger to enforce that relationship between parents and child that must be...must be continually developed. And it seems to me, and from everything that I've read, that the best way to enforce child support collection is to keep the other parent involved. If all you're doing is paying on a car, it's easy to default on it, and that's the impression some people have because they don't get to see their kid. And we've gone overboard, we've gone overboard, tax intercepts, garnishments, we want to go to administrative garnishments, all sorts of things to enforce the child support and the only reason I've been given on why we can do this and not visitation is because it's quantifiable, simply because we're dealing with dollars rather than emotions. We tried to take a step forward by doing this and delayed the implementation until next year so we can work out the problems to try to put support and visitation on an equal footing. And now, with this amendment, we seek to move back. We seek to regress. We take away one of the two things that was agreed to which was administrative enforcement of visitation. We take that out and move back to judicial enforcement. And it seems when we talk about things like expedited hearings and referees rather than judges, it sounds like a great way to do it, unless you've had to pay the 500 or 1,000 bucks each time your kid doesn't go on visitation with you, unless you've been through that process where you spend those dollars to enforce your visitation and yet at the same time you spend dollars to defend against the child support action that is erroneous, when the state is providing an attorney for the person trying to collect from you. We are way out of balance on the child support collections and I believe support ought to be paid, and I believe we ought to be doing whatever we can to collect the support, but, darn it, we ought to be making sure that if someone is ordered to allow someone else...allow the other parent to see their child, that ought to be done and that is every bit as important as is the child