

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Day. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, Senator Day has hit on an issue that has been a sore point for a lot of men who are in the process of trying to pay their child support. A young guy had come to me and he was the example of the person who is a total and absolute literalist. He had been paying child support for three or four years. He had missed paying his child support twice in the past. That means he had never been more than two months behind and not those two months together. He currently was about to miss another payment and he'd give what he could and he thought he was going to jail so he came to me. And it's one of those situations, I won't tell everything that had been done with reference to him because it might be possible for his identity to be determined, although I don't think anybody is that interested in doing it, but I had let him know I wouldn't ever give his name. It was worked out where he talked to some of the people who were in child support enforcement and they said, instead of you going to jail we would like to make you an example of how people should pay their child support and it's like a weight dropped off of him. He came out of hiding. I don't mean he went underground. He was afraid of police cars. He thought warrants were out for him. I didn't even know the extent of the fear that he had. But he was a younger person and all the things he had heard had taken root in him. He was on a job working but he had lost his previous job on which he made more money, so he couldn't make all of the child support money because the job he was working paid less. He thought he was going to lose his job, just everything imaginable that could happen he was sure would happen to him. If a process such as this were made available and people were made aware of it I think it could go a long way in avoiding some difficult problems. A person would not say, since I can't pay all of my support at this time, I'm not going to pay any of it because that won't do any good. The opportunity is presented. The fact that a person is allowed to put in a plea for a change in the amount paid in child support does not mean that plea will be acted on favorably automatically simply because the plea was made. When Senator Lindsay said the state had gone overboard in trying to collect child support and Senator Beutler said it's unreasonable to say that when the state is trying to make people pay to support their children that you can go overboard, in this instance, I agree with Senator Lindsay. I have never felt that