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committee amendments, because the committee amendments take the Parenting Act and make it conform technically to the bill so that we will have the two sections of statute working together. I think we're not putting enough emphasis on what I'll call the less than absolute language of the committee amendment. It says the court will specifically take into consideration the importance of...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...the parents' necessary work schedule.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Beutler, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, I would like to speak in support of the committee amendments and in support of the bill. I hope that there is an original principle that we can all agree on, and that is that decisions ought to be made in the best interests of the child. Nobody seems to be arguing that today. So we start there. And I would hope that the second principle taken in the abstract that we would all agree upon is that two parents is better than one, and that two active parents, in the normal situation, is better than one. And that, that principle, ought to be embodied in our law as the ideal; that should be the starting point. And when there is a divorce, that starting point should be reflected in our law, as much as is practically possible. If then you depart from that, that sharing of custody, that total involvement to the extent practicable, to the extent that you depart from that, it should be done in the best interests of the child, and that language remains. And any factor can be considered. But, Senator Redfield, I would argue that with respect to requiring mutual consent, that that is...is not wise for two reasons. First of all, the law should state what the expectations are of the parties. And as the law over time states that expectation, society will contend...will eventually conform if that expectation is reasonable. And I think we ought to say to both parents, this is what we expect, we need you to work together. Just like a number of years ago we said blacks and whites and Asians and Indians, we want you all to work together and that is the expectation. And over time I think