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the most compelling argument when he suggested, or emphasized, that the child is entitled to nothing less than an adult. Why, when you have a person unable to look after his or her own interests, should we say that a child is worthy of less? Children should not be thrown away. So even though Senator Dwite Pedersen says he will not support this, I will enthusiastically support it. I was not aware that this provision was in the law. And when a matter of as much importance as this comes to our attention on a bill which is being considered by us, and the thrust of the bill is to provide for the welfare of the children, this is very appropriate, and we would be less than responsible if we did not act on it at this time. We know about it. We know that it ought not be this way. So why do we hesitate? We should do this. And I intend to support it. And if Senator Dwite Pedersen was listening to me, he would support it too. But I think he had made his mind up, because he knew of one or two or however many who had done this job well. But I would ask him to remember the number of cases that come before us in the Judiciary Committee where things that may be well handled in one area of the state are not necessarily handled that way everywhere. So we cannot leave things to whim or hope. We have to provide in the statute what the minimum standard is going to be. And the minimum standard for our children should be that the best representation available under these circumstances where a guardian ad litem is to be appointed should be made available to that child. All of my children are grown now. If I had a child who needed protection in a judicial proceeding, I would hope...and I were not around to look after that child...I would hope that a competent attorney would be appointed.

**SENATOR COORDSEN:** Thank you, Senator Chambers. There are no further lights on. Senator Wickersham, did you wish to close on your amendment?

**SENATOR WICKERSHAM:** Mr. President, I'll be quite brief. I think we've hit the point squarely on the head. I believe that this is not a complicated matter, Senator Dierks. It is something that we can easily grasp the concepts that are involved. I understand your concern about having a public hearing, but again, I don't think this is a complex issue. We did discuss it on General File. The amendment has been on file